

Arab allies seek to revive pact

CAIRO (R) — An Egyptian official left on Sunday for talks with seven Arab allies against Iraq to try to resurrect a plan for an Arab peacekeeping force in the Gulf. Assistant Foreign Minister Mahmoud Abul Naser headed for Qatar to meet senior officials from Syria and the six states of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC). "The aim is to discuss ways to implement the Damascus declaration and set up protocols to carry it out in the economic, political, security and information fields," Mr. Abul Naser told reporters. Egypt, Syria and the GCC members — Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Qatar and Oman — agreed in March after the Gulf war to form a peacekeeping force. Under the agreement signed in Damascus, troops from Egypt and Syria, which played major roles in the Gulf war, would form the nucleus of such a force. In return the oil-rich Gulf states would give them substantial economic aid. But cracks later appeared between the allies. President Hosni Mubarak said last month he had ordered the withdrawal of at least 35,000 Egyptians who took part in the war.

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King receives congratulations

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Sunday received congratulatory cables from world leaders, statesmen and senior Jordanian officials on his recovery from a heart ailment. The King received cables from President Richard von Weizsacker of Germany, Australian Prime Minister Bob Hawke and Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney. A cable also came from Chief Islamic Justice Mohammad Mchael, on behalf of himself and all judges and courts personnel in Jordan, wishing the King continued good health and happiness to continue leading the nation towards further progress and success.

Assad gets Gorbachev message

DAMASCUS (R) — Syrian President Hafez Al Assad has received a message from Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev dealing with the Middle East peace process in which Washington and Moscow are key players. Officials in Damascus said the message was conveyed to Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Al Sharaa during a meeting with Soviet Ambassador to Damascus Alexander Zotov Saturday night. Its contents were not disclosed.

Iraq denounces Britain, U.S.

NICOSIA (AP) — An Iraqi newspaper Sunday condemned British Prime Minister John Major and U.S. leaders for their opposition to lifting economic sanctions. The Iraqi News Agency quoted the daily Al Thawra as saying a proposed war reparations fund that is being debated at the United Nations is illegal under the U.N. Charter. The fund would be financed by withholding a portion of Iraq's oil revenues "at a time when the coalition continues to tighten the noose of its economic blockade," the paper was quoted as saying. The editorial in Al Thawra singled out Mr. Major as a "serpent" who is attempting to increase his popularity at home by taking anti-Iraqi positions. The newspaper said the continuation of sanctions was a violation of Iraqi people's right and it held the world community responsible for their suffering.

Kabul reports talks with exiles

KABUL (R) — President Najibullah's government has held talks with prominent Afghan exiles in Europe in a bid to find peace in Afghanistan, a presidential aide said on Sunday. Eshaq Tookki said in an interview with selected Western media that the exiles had included a former prime minister and several ministers from previous governments. The Kabul government was at times represented at ministerial level during the meetings, the aide said. He declined to name ministers who had attended them. There has been speculation in Kabul that Foreign Minister Abdul Wakil met former Prime Minister Mohammad Yusuf during a recent European visit. Diplomatic sources reported contact in Geneva in April between representatives of the warring sides.

Israeli who sold arms to drug lords jailed

FORT LAUDERDALE, Florida (AP) — An Israeli businessman was sentenced to nearly five years in prison for conspiring to sell munitions to a Colombian cocaine cartel and train members of the cartel to use explosives. David Candioti, 30, was sentenced to a term of four years and nine months Friday by U.S. District Court Judge William Zloch. He faced a maximum 15-year term. "What we are talking about is providing an arsenal to the highest level of the Cali cartel, to their inner circle," Assistant U.S. Attorney Barbara Ward said. Candioti, who had been living in Miami Beach, has been in prison since his arrest in 1989 with a van full of munitions at a service plaza on a Florida highway. The indictment said Candioti organized two shipments of munitions to Cali, Colombia, in July and August 1988.

Jordan seeks world intervention to block executions in Kuwait

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer
with agency dispatches

AMMAN — Jordan Sunday appealed to Arab and international organizations and world governments for immediate intervention to save the lives of Jordanians sentenced to death in Kuwait for allegedly collaborating with the Iraqi army during its occupation of the emirate. In messages sent to various organizations and governments as well as the United Nations, the Jordanian government said the death sentences, passed by a military court conducting summary trials of alleged collaborators with the Iraqis during the occupation, "do not conform with the charges filed against them." The messages said that the accused did not have the proper means to defend themselves against the charges filed against them. The government called for urgent intervention to protect the lives of those Jordanians facing execution and for an end to the summary trials as well as for fair and just conduct of the cases after

ensuring that the legal rights of the accused are respected in line with international norms and practices. The appeals were sent, among others, to the Arab League, the United Nations, the International Committee of the Red Cross, Amnesty International, the Vatican and the governments of the United States, the United Kingdom and France. The Jordanian appeal came as reports from Kuwait said three more people were sentenced to death by the military court as the summary trial continued Sunday. Sunday's sentence raised to 12 the total number of defendants facing hanging for allegedly collaborating with the Iraqis. The martial law court also handed stiff prison terms ranging from seven years to 25 years with hard labour to 11 other defendants in the martial law trials. No details about the three sentenced to death in absentia were released other than their names — Hasan Daoud Slaman, Mohsen Hadi and Yousef Moustapha. Up to 450 people are expected to be brought to trial in a special

court established under the martial law to deal with "collaboration" cases. At least 250 have appeared so far. The death sentences Sunday came a day after the court sentenced six newspaper workers to death for their editing or writing for the Iraqi-run newspaper Al Nidaa during the occupation. Ten of the other mostly Jordanian, Palestinian and Iraqi workers were sentenced to 10-year prison terms and eight labourers were acquitted. Death sentences had been expected against the Lebanese editor, Ahmad Fadi Al Hussein, who fled the country before the liberation, and against 35-year-old Ibtisam Al Dukheil, a Kuwaiti who worked to recruit journalists for the paper. But defence lawyers have evaded shock at the number of death sentences emerging from the court. "We are dealing with these people the same methods that (Iraq) used to deal with us," said prominent defence attorney Imad Al Seif. (Continued on page 5)

Kurds expect to sign peace pact within a week

BAGHDAD (R) — Kurdish rebel leader Massoud Barzani left Baghdad for Iraqi Kurdistan Sunday to put the finishing touches to a peace agreement with the government, a Kurdish spokesman said. Doctor Roth Shawis, speaking after more than a week of silence from the Kurdish negotiating team, said he expected Mr. Barzani and other rebel leaders to return to the Iraqi capital in a week to sign an agreement. "It only needs the final touches and the final signature and announcement," he said. "The negotiation has achieved its end stage," he told Reuters and the Visnews television agency. Mr. Barzani left to Kurdistan today. He will speak with the other Kurdish leadership and then he will be back in a few days. "He will take about a week to come back to Baghdad and announce the agreement with the Iraqi government," Mr. Barzani, whose Kurdish Democratic Party is the biggest Kurdish guerrilla group, arrived in Baghdad at the beginning of May to lead a second round of talks on a new autonomy deal for Iraq's 9.5 million Kurds. Mr. Shawis, speaking in Arabic and English, said Jalal Talabani, leader of the other main Kurdish party, the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, would probably return with Mr. Barzani for any signing. The talks, begun in April by Mr. Talabani, followed abortive rebellions by Kurds in the north and Shiite Muslims in the south after the Gulf war. Up to two million Kurds fled towards Turkey and Iran after government troops crushed the unrest in the north. In the first round of talks, Mr. Talabani and Iraqi President Saddam Hussein reached agreement in principle on reviving a 1970 accord which gave Iraq's Kurds extensive rights to run their own affairs as well as a major role in central government. The Kurds say the agreement was never fully implemented. Differences on the borders of the Kurdish autonomous region, in particular whether it would include the oil city of Kirkuk, and on the role of Iraq's ruling Baath Party in a promised multi-party democracy have been blocking the talks. "We have agreed about the democracy for Iraq, election and also about a new law for the autonomous region of Kurdistan

and normalisation of the situation in Kurdistan," Mr. Shawis said. Asked about the fate of Kirkuk, he replied: "About details I have no comment now. May be there are some surprises in the whole matter." The Iranian news agency IRNA reported Sunday, Iraqi Kurdish Islamic groups opposed to any peace deal with the government plan to form a united front to continue their struggle. It quoted Badr Esmail, a member of the Kurdish Hizbollah of Iraq, as saying that founder members of the Kurdish Islamic Movement, the Kurdish Hizbollah, the Kurdish Majahdeen, the Kurdish Ansar Al Islam and others had been invited to join. Mr. Badr told IRNA that the aim of forming a single party was to show solidarity with the Iraqi people. "The Kurdish Hizbollah headed by Adham Barzani are opposed to the recent compromising moves undertaken by certain Kurdish factions at the expense of the struggle for popular rule in Iraq," the Iranian agency reported. Thousands of Kurds marched through the streets of the northern Iraqi city of Dohuk Sunday to protest at the withdrawal of U.S. troops. The demonstrators marched to the headquarters of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, base for a small force of U.N. guards. The Kurds assert the U.N. guards are not adequate to protect them from any infiltration by the Iraqi secret police. They are demanding Washington resume its military presence. Deal over harvest Kurdish rebels have reached an agreement with Baghdad to save thousands of tonnes of wheat from rotting unharvested in northern Iraq, according to a rebel spokesman. The ripening crops stand in fields which Kurds claim were taken from Kurdish farmers and handed over to Arabs in the late 1980s. Kurdish guerrillas have regained control of the area since allied troops moved in to protect Kurds returning from refugee camps on the Turkish border, and most Arabs have fled. Baghdad has agreed to provide harvesting machines and to buy the estimated 120,000 tonnes harvested from farmers after striking a complex deal.

U.N. team preparing report on Iraq's chemical weapons

Bahrain (AP) — U.N. experts are huddled behind closed doors preparing a report on Iraq's largest single supply of chemical weapons in preparation for destroying them, a spokesman said. Sunday. However, U.N. officials have determined that the team will not be free to discuss its mission with the media, said Alistair Livingston, field operations director at the U.N. Special Commission (UNSCOM) regional base in Bahrain. Only a brief, formal statement will be issued after the team finalises its report, probably by mid-week, Mr. Livingston said. The 24 team members, led by Peter Dunn of Australia, will return to their home countries to be followed by other teams to continue the weapons survey over coming weeks, Mr. Livingston said. UNSCOM, led by Ambassador Rolf Ekens of Sweden, has been charged with dismantling Iraq's nuclear, biological and chemical capabilities as well as ballistic missiles with a range of more than 150 kilometres. This was stipulated in U.N. Security Council Resolution 687, which enforced an official cease fire to the Gulf war on April 3. The resolution also specified that trade sanctions on Iraq remain in force until Iraq gives up its non-conventional weaponry. In its report, Mr. Dunn's team has also to line up recommendations on how to destroy the chemical weapons, hoping it be done on Iraqi sovereign territory. Mr. Livingston confirmed that Iraq had offered to destroy the chemical weapons itself under U.N. supervision. Mr. Dunn's team charged with inspecting only the chemical weapons site at Muthanna state establishment, known as the "Sammara site," about 70 kilometres west of Baghdad. That was the biggest of several sites of the chemical weapons already declared by Iraq. Future teams will inspect other sites. Mr. Ekens and members of the commission said they considered destruction of Iraq's chemical weapons as the toughest challenge they face because the sites were bombed during the Gulf war, were under debris and may be contaminated.

Baker's criticism upsets Israelis

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli leaders accused U.S. Secretary of State James Baker Sunday of meddling in local politics by criticising a headline aide to Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir. "It is not only an infringement on our sovereignty but an insult to the prime minister," Religion Minister Zevulun Hammer told reporters after a cabinet discussion of the dispute over Middle East peace policy. Mr. Baker, who has made five visits to Israel since the Gulf war trying to start peace talks, was reported to have criticised Mr. Shamir's aide Yossi Ben Aharon during a meeting with American Jewish leaders in Washington (see page 2).

Although ignited by reports from participants that Mr. Baker accused a Shamir aide of trying to undermine U.S. peace efforts, the dispute reflected deeper U.S.-Israeli tension over Mr. Shamir's refusal to accept Washington's proposals for a peace conference. "They want to pressure us in an inappropriate way to change our positions," Mr. Hammer said. "The prime minister's reaction was correct when he said he has faith in his staff and all the responsibility is his." According to Israeli media, Mr. Baker was angered by comments at a meeting between Mr. Ben Aharon and State Department official Dennis Ross earlier this month, Mr. Shamir's aide apparently reopened a problem Mr. Baker thought had been resolved in his talks with the prime minister. Mr. Shamir subsequently repeated

Mr. Ben Aharon's position, insisting Israel had yet to agree to terms for Palestinian participation in Middle East peace talks. In addition, Mr. Shamir rejected U.S. compromise proposals for a U.N. observer to attend a peace conference and for the meeting to reconvene after six months, with Israeli approval, to hear progress reports on direct talks between states. Israel opposes any U.N. role and wants a peace conference to be a once-only, ceremonial gathering — the exact opposite of terms sought by Syria. The flap over Mr. Ben Aharon, whose headline views are thought to reflect those of Mr. Shamir, follows fears in Israel that Washington might withhold aid needed to finance immigration of Soviet Jews until Israel moderates

its position on peace. Mr. Shamir regularly warns that Israel will never cave in to U.S. pressure to moderate its position on peace talks but his country wants some \$18 billion in loan guarantees to help immigrants. "To come today and make Israel or some people... in the entourage of Prime Minister Shamir responsible for the American failure in the Middle East is really a very far reaching declaration," said Eliahu Ben Elissar, chairman of the parliamentary committee on foreign affairs. "The United States has failed completely in its very eager and keen efforts to bring to the negotiating table countries like Syria, like Jordan, like Saudi Arabia, who did not move an inch," he asserted.

Levinger runs amok in Hebron

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli soldiers stood by passively as a Jewish settler leader ran amok in a Palestinian market, slapping and kicking shoppers, overturning stalls and shooting wildly in the air, a legislator said Sunday. Rabbi Moshe Levinger, who was jailed for five months last year for shooting to death a Palestinian in Hebron, went on a rampage Saturday in the same town in the occupied West Bank, according to Yossi Sarid of the Citizen's Rights Movement (CRM). Mr. Sarid said he sent a telegram to the army chief of staff, Ehud Barak, complaining that soldiers did not detain Rabbi Levinger "as the circumstances obligated them to do."

An army spokesman said only that police were dealing with the incident. Police spokesmen would not confirm or deny if police had launched an investigation. Mr. Sarid said he learned of the incident from reserve soldiers who witnessed the incident and apparently were not ordered to take action. Omar Rajabi, a vegetable dealer reached by telephone in the Hebron market, said he saw Rabbi Levinger "kicking and shouting... he behaved as thugs do."

Mr. Sarid quoted soldiers as saying the rabbi ran through the market for about 15 minutes, dragging Palestinians out of stores and shouting "get out of here, you dogs." Israeli Radio reported that Rabbi Levinger said he was retaliating for stones and bottles thrown at settler children, hitting one in the head and another in the legs. Rabbi Levinger heads a group of Jewish settlers who live in two enclaves guarded by soldiers within the town of Hebron. Last year, he was jailed for five months after he was convicted of shooting to death a Palestinian shopkeeper in 1988. Witnesses said at the time that after his car was stoned, Rabbi Levinger ran back into the town and fired wildly, killing one man and wounding another. Israel Radio reported, meanwhile, that three Palestinians were given life sentences Sunday for stabbing to death Israel. One man was sentenced for a fatal stabbing three months ago and the other two for a stabbing death six months ago. In the West Bank village of Zawata, near Nablus, 16-year-old Iyad Zawatiya died of a gunshot wound to the head suffered last Wednesday when an Israeli fuel truck driver opened fire after his

truck was stoned, reporters said. The reporters said hundreds of youths attended Zawatiya's funeral in the village, shouting "our blood we will redeem the martyr." A Palestinian stabbed and wounded an Israeli farmer on Sunday to avenge the massacre of over 20 Arabs in Jerusalem eight months ago, police said. It was the third politically motivated stabbing in three days. Police said the attacker told them he was a member of Fateh, the mainstream group in the Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO). Israeli police acknowledge that they killed 10 Arabs last October in the bloodiest event of the three and a half year Palestinian uprising. The Palestinian from the occupied West Bank attacked a farmer at a collective farm.

Laws being drafted on political parties

By Rana Sabbagh
Reuter
AMMAN — Jordan, pushing its budding democracy a step further, has begun drafting laws to legalise political parties for the first time since the Kingdom banned them in 1957. A broad based conference of liberals, leftists, Islamists and Communists endorsed a national charter a week ago paving the way for multi-party democracy. Official sources said on Sunday that among the draft law's key aims is ensuring that no future party has outside links and funding or is exclusively sectarian-based. Parties will be allowed to have pan-Arab outlooks but Jordan must come first and prospective parties would have to agree to work within the

constitution, the sources said. They said they must also have a minimum number of founding members. "The government is now busy drafting the law that will shape Jordan's future political pluralism and provide enough checks and balances to guarantee that they do not run off track and become subversive to outsiders as in the 1950s," a source said. Jordan banned political parties in 1957 after subversive plots emerged as Egyptian-inspired socialism swept the region but allowed the Muslim Brotherhood to operate to counter the influence of leftist groups. "Jordan is taking its time and referring to party experiences in other... countries because of the delicate nature of matters and because we do not want our experiment to be

assassinated with our own hands," the source told Reuters. His Majesty King Hussein, in a speech after the charter has endorsed, warned against intolerance and irresponsible behaviour and said democracy was not a "silk coat to conceal poisoned daggers." More than 50 parties are awaiting legalisation under the new law which must be endorsed by the cabinet and parliament after the King signs it. It is not clear yet whether the present parliament will serve out its term until 1992 or make way for an early election, the first such ballot since 1952 and a rare one in the mainly one party Arab World. The 80-seat Lower House of Parliament, now in summer recess, could reconvene on July 1 for an extraordinary session to debate the new law

or leave it for its regular session which normally begins in November, officials say. The law is expected to stir heated debate in parliament — where the Muslim Brotherhood and their independent allies form the single largest bloc — with each political faction trying to tailor it to suit its own needs and further its own interests. Officials hope the draft law will defuse a power struggle between secular groups and the Muslim fundamentalists, who have reaped the first fruits of Jordan's steps towards democracy since 1989 elections — the first in two decades. The Brotherhood and their sympathisers now control eight ministries and are making changes such as segregating the sexes in some — a move alarming Jordanian liberals.

Israelis report Soviet offer of anti-missile system

PARIS (R) — Israeli officials at the Paris air show said Sunday Soviet authorities had offered to sell them systems to counter Soviet-made missiles of the type fired at Israeli during the Gulf war. "We held two meetings with Doris Bounkin, general scientific manager of Almaz, a state industrial corporation, who offered us a system he says is superior to the U.S.-made Patriot which we used in the Gulf war," said Noah Shachar, spokesman for Rafael, the Israeli defence ministry's arms development branch. "We were obviously very surprised because the offer is the first of its kind ever made to us by Moscow but the Soviets made clear in the meetings that everything (in their arsenal) is on the market," Mr. Shachar told Reuters. The Soviet Union was a major supplier of arms to its ally Iraq before the Gulf war, including Scud missiles which Baghdad fired at Israel during the conflict. Soviet officials at the air show caused surprise last week when they revealed they were negotiating to sell MiG-S1 interceptors, Moscow's prime combat aircraft,

to the United Arab Emirates, a western linked Arab state. Mr. Shachar said the Soviet anti-missile systems, which he identified as AF 3003, were widely used in the Soviet Union's own air defences. Mr. Dounkin told him they could reach an altitude of 25,000 metres and had a range of 90 kilometres, both performances superior to those of the U.S. Patriot. Soviet officials at the air show were not immediately available to comment on Mr. Shachar's statements. Patriots were used extensively by U.S. army crews, hastily flown to Israel, and by Israeli air force ground teams, to defend Tel Aviv when the city came under attack from Iraqi Scuds at the start of the Gulf war in January. The Patriots' role has become controversial in Israel, with critics saying Patriots hit Scuds too late, so that debris from both missiles involved in an interception fell on Tel Aviv causing widespread damage. Some say the damage was worse than if the Scuds had not been intercepted.

Yilmaz poised to take premiership

ANKARA (Agencies) — Turkish Premier Yildirim Akbulut resigned Sunday after being ousted from the chairmanship of the ruling Motherland Party. The congress of the centre-right party elected Mesut Yilmaz, a former foreign minister, as its new leader, putting Mr. Yilmaz in line for the premiership. The choice of the 44-year-old Yilmaz was a blow to the Islamic fundamentalist wing of the party which had supported Mr. Akbulut. By ousting Mr. Akbulut, delegates were clearly trying to shake up the party, which according to recent public opinion polls is trailing the two main opposition parties. "Remaining in office any further is not compatible with my understanding of democracy," Mr. Akbulut said in his letter of resignation submitted to President Turgut Ozal. Mr. Ozal accepted Mr. Akbulut's resignation and asked him to stay on until a new premier was appointed. Mr. Yilmaz received 631 votes to Mr. Akbulut's 523 in the bal-

loting Saturday night. Mr. Ozal declared neutrality in the leadership struggle but Turkish newspapers said his wife Semra lobbied intensely for Mr. Yilmaz after a third candidate, former Education Minister Hasan Celal Guzel, withdrew after the first round of voting. Mr. Yilmaz helped establish the Motherland Party with Mr. Ozal and was foreign minister for three years until he resigned in February 1990 after a policy dispute with Mr. Akbulut. Mr. Akbulut's opponents inside and outside the party accused him of lacklustre leadership and subservience to Mr. Ozal. Political observers said Mr. Yilmaz' election might turn into a mixed blessing for Mr. Ozal. Mr. Ozal is certain to welcome Mr. Yilmaz as a politician able to give the Motherland Party a needed boost. But the president, accustomed to running things himself through the loyal Akbulut, might find Mr. Yilmaz too independent for his taste. Mr. Ozal will need the premier's support in his bid to enact constitutional changes.

Baker says Shamir aide hampers peace process

The Jerusalem Post

U.S. SECRETARY of State James Baker has sharply criticized Yossi Ben-Aharon, director general of Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's office, for undermining agreements on the peace process reached in one-on-one meetings between Baker and Shamir, according to American Jewish leaders who met with Baker on Thursday.

Without mentioning Ben-Aharon by name, the sources said, Baker expressed his frustration to the Jewish leaders that deals struck by the U.S. with the elected leaders of Israel could be contradicted by a non-elected aide.

Officials in Shamir's office said last night that Shamir "stands behind his staff."

Ben-Aharon told the Jerusalem Post that he had "no comment" on the report. "The prime minister has said all that need be said on the subject," he explained. In the encounter with eight leaders of the American Jewish community and well-connected Jewish Republicans, Baker also reiterated his disappointment with the "negative tone" of Shamir's latest letter to President Bush. He had expressed this unhappiness earlier Thursday in his two-hour meeting with Foreign Minister David Levy.

The thrust of the criticism aimed at Ben-Aharon, the sources said, stemmed from a conversation between Ben-Aharon and State Department Policy Planning Staff Director Dennis Ross, which took place during a visit to Washington by Ben-Aharon earlier this month.

In that meeting, tempers flared and there was reportedly shouting after Ben-Aharon dismissed a written compromise on the principles underlying the composition of the Palestinian delegation to the talks, reached between Baker and Shamir during their last meeting in Jerusalem. Ben-Aharon reportedly said that Shamir was not paying attention to details when he reached such a compromise with Baker. The State Department aides were said to be flabbergasted that an aide would allow himself to deride a written agreement reached by his superior.



Yossi Ben-Aharon

According to the Baker-Shamir compromise formula, all Palestinians living in the (occupied) territories would be eligible to delegates to a Middle East peace conference, assuming they accept the two-track approach and are willing to live in peace.

However — and perhaps as further evidence of Ben-Aharon's influence — his version proved to be the one that Shamir adopted in his letter to Bush 10 days ago. Shamir wrote Bush that Israel would have to be allowed veto power on the composition of the Palestinian delegates.

Three days ago, Ben-Aharon took the unusual step of opposing the U.S. compromise procedural formula in an op-ed piece published in the New York Times — the same day that Baker met with Foreign Minister Levy and the Jewish leaders.

As Ben-Aharon wrote about the involvement of a UN observer at the conference: "The presence of an observer entails more than note-taking. He would have direct contact with the delegation, submit reports to the UN, and raise questions in the General Assembly and Security Council as soon as negotiations reached their first impasse. In short, it means UN pressure on Israel licensed by its representative at the conference."

Last month, Ben-Aharon also caused a stir when he issued a contradictory assessment to that of Levy's, after Baker had obtained the consent of Gulf states to participate in the peace conference as observers. Twenty minutes after Levy emerged from a cabinet meeting, telling reporters that the move constituted

progress, Ben-Aharon came out and said the inclusion of Gulf states adds "nothing tangible" to the peace process.

Some Israeli sources have suggested that the Bush administration may be singling out Ben-Aharon personally for responsibility for Israel's refusal to bend on the differences between Israel and the Syrians on the modalities of a peace conference. The reason behind this is thought to be a desire to preserve a smooth relationship with Shamir himself, and a clear preference that has been expressed by State Department officials for the more moderate positions articulated by Levy.

Among those who participated in the Baker meeting were Malcolm Hoenlein and Shoshana Cardin, executive director and chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, along with representatives of Aipac, the American Jewish Congress, the American Jewish Committee, and prominent Jewish Republicans Max Fisher and George Klein.

Participants in the meeting would not comment on whether they raised the issue of Israel's expected request for \$10 billion in housing loan guarantees and recent comments by President Bush that the guarantees would be linked to settlement activity in the administered territories. That link was echoed by Vice President Dan Quayle in a recent meeting with Aipac representatives, American Jewish sources confirmed.

One issue that was raised with Baker was the plight of Syrian Jewry. American Jewish sources said that they pressed Baker to ask Syrian President Hafez Assad to allow greater numbers of single Jewish women to leave Syria in order to marry.

Baker, the sources said, recounted a conversation he had with Assad on that topic, in which Assad claimed that the last 12 women who were released from Syria for that reason had all returned to Syria unmarried.

Baker told Assad that, according to American data, his information was completely untrue and 11 of the 12 women are happily married with children.



Ali Akbar Velayati

Velayati on Haj

NICOSIA (R) — Iran's foreign minister is in Saudi Arabia where he will perform the Haj, the annual pilgrimage boycotted by Tehran since 1987 when hundreds of Iranian pilgrims were killed in riots in Mecca.

The Saudi Press Agency reported that Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati flew into Jeddah on Saturday night at the head of an Iranian delegation on his first visit to Saudi Arabia since landmark talks in the kingdom in April.

Mr. Velayati's Saudi counterpart Prince Saud Al Faisal visited Iran during the first week of June to discuss Iran's future role in the post war Gulf.

Prince Saud's visit was the first by a senior member of the Saudi royal family since Iran's 1979 Islamic Revolution. At the time Mr. Velayati described it as "historic."

The two major Gulf powers, which are also the world's biggest oil exporters, reestablished diplomatic ties in March after a three year break sparked by Saudi allegations that Iran was fomenting Shi'ite revolt in the kingdom.

Tehran Radio said that as well as performing the Haj, Mr. Velayati would have talks with Saudi officials on further improving relations between Tehran and Riyadh.

After ending its self-imposed isolation following the revolution, Iran's pragmatic President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani is eager to play a key role in the region.

Iran was dismayed when it was left out of plans by the Arab states of the Gulf for a security force that would involve Egypt and Syria but not Iran.

Cairo and Damascus were going to provide the bulk of the force's troops, in return for Gulf Arab investment in cash starved Egypt and Syria.

The agreement by the six Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states — Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Oman, the United Arab Emirates and Qatar — has so far failed to get off the ground. Tehran remained neutral during the U.S.-led Gulf war against Iraq's occupation of Kuwait and this helped lead to an agreement between Tehran and Riyadh on the Haj issue.

More than 115,000 Iranians are taking part in this year's Haj which reaches its climax in about a week. Iran boycotted the Haj for three years in protest at quota restrictions imposed by Riyadh following the 1987 riots.

Iran had opposed the quota system and a formal Saudi ban on political activity. Saudi Arabia is allowing Iran this year three times the number of pilgrims allowed under the quota and Tehran in return agreed that its pilgrims would not hold political demonstrations in public places.

The 1987 riots erupted when Saudi security forces tried to stop mainly Iranian pilgrims, many carrying pictures of Iran's late spiritual leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, from staging anti-Western demonstrations in Mecca.

Algerian papers see little in Ben Bella move for presidency

ALGIERS (R) — Algerian newspapers Sunday largely ignored the announcement by former head of state Ahmed Ben Bella that he would stand for president in all elections, and Western diplomats gave him little chance of success.

"He has to be irrelevant to presidential elections," said one diplomat. "He may make a showing in the legislative elections, particularly in the West, but not in a presidential vote."

Mr. Ben Bella was toppled and jailed in 1965 after three years in power following independence. He returned from exile nine months ago and formed his own political party, the Movement for Democracy in Algeria.

At a news conference on Saturday night, the 73-year-old former president said: "I would like to reply to a question that no one yet asked I will be a candidate for presidential elections."

No date has been set for President Chadli Benjedid to face voters although an early election is envisaged. His term officially ends in 1993.

Mr. Ben Bella has consistently

called for an early presidential poll but last November said he would not be a candidate.

Mr. Benjedid on June 5 imposed a state of siege, put off general elections due this month and sacked the government after violent clashes between Islamic fundamentalists and security forces.

The Islamic Salvation Front, whose protests against electoral laws led to the clashes, said later an agreement had been reached for general and presidential elections this year.

Algeria's new Prime Minister Sid Ahmed Ghozali, working to form a new government, has described its task as being to prepare for fair general elections.

On Sunday, the newspaper Le Quotidien d'Algerie, reported Mr. Ben Bella's statement without comment. The independent Al Watan used its final sentence to say simply: "Ben Bella will be a presidential candidate."

Al Moudjahid, organ of the former ruling National Liberation Front, omitted any mention of Mr. Ben Bella's candidacy in its report of his news conference.

Ethiopia sets up panel to rehabilitate soldiers

ADDIS ABABA (R) — Ethiopia's interim government has set up a commission to help thousands of disabled war veterans and soldiers from the defeated army of former dictator Mengistu Haile Mariam.

State television said late Saturday the new rehabilitation commission would help disabled troops resume a peaceful life and cater for veterans crippled in the country's 30 year civil war.

The commission, attached to the Defence Ministry, would also "select those essential to the formation of a new national defence force."

Local residents said some former soldiers were already being sent on political re-education courses to prepare them for fighting against rebels in the north-western province of Gojam.

Other former soldiers have joined ranks with the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Party (EPRP), which waged a low-level guerrilla war against Colonel Mengistu but now opposed the new interim administration.

Interim President Meles Zenawi said last week the EPRP and a coalition of other groups based in Washington were unlikely to attend talks this month on forming a transitional government.

Mr. Meles said he wanted to cut Col. Mengistu's 500,000-strong army to a new, slimmer force of 60,000 men.

This would include fighters of

Mr. Meles's Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF), which swept to power last month, and professional soldiers drawn from the remnants of Col. Mengistu's Soviet-backed army.

The rehabilitation commission, comprising seven acting ministers and heads of other state bodies, is also responsible for notorious "heroes" centres, where disabled war veterans were kept virtual prisoners by Col. Mengistu's government.

Relief agencies have mounted an emergency operation to feed soldiers in camps around the country.

These include 90,000 who have been expelled from the Red Sea province of Eritrea by the separatist Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF).

Refugees reaching Addis Ababa say the EPLF, which fought a 30 year war for independence, has also deported thousands of civilians who came from other parts of Ethiopia.

On Saturday, the International Commission of the Red Cross began flying food for the soldiers to Mekele, the capital of Tigray Province, which borders Eritrea to the south.

Its chartered transport planes will fly up to 52 tonnes of supplies daily into Tigray, where columns of ragged former soldiers are trekking southwards from Eritrea.

Tail-less Australian sheep provoke sacrifice row in Algeria

ALGIERS (R) — More than 200,000 Australian sheep imported live for sacrifice in Algeria have provoked a row on whether their lack of tails bars them from ritual slaughter.

Imported for a total cost of \$15 million, they are being sold for 3,000 Algerian dinars (\$165) a head compared with around 7,000 (\$305) for the local beasts.

Algerian newspapers on Sunday reported suggestions that regional farmers had started rumours that the sheep — castrated and without tails — were not religiously acceptable for sacrifice during the Eid Al Adha festival, due to be held within the next week.

Local religious rulings have banned their sacrifice in some areas, the newspaper Al Moudjahid said.

Algeria traditionally increases its imports of live sheep ahead of festivals to help keep prices down.

A spokesman for the regional meat board, Orevic, told the

newspaper: "... We only concluded the purchase after agreement with the supreme Islamic Council of Algeria which judged that the beasts conformed to standards demanded for the sacrifice."

But Algeria's Supreme Islamic Council, in a statement carried by newspapers, said: "Sheep whose tails have been cut completely, or more than one third, are not (not) authorised for sacrifice."

The sheep could, however, be eaten, it added.

Egypt last week rejected a shipment of 71,000 Australian sheep, ordered for Eid Al Adha, because the animals were sick.

The Australian embassy in Cairo said the sheep were suffering from scabby mouth, a mild disease similar to cold sores which is found in all flocks.

Last year several Gulf countries turned away sheep shipments from Australia which they said were diseased. Australia said the animals were fit to eat.

Bush: Some of Iraq's nuclear capability probably survived

LOS ANGELES (R) — U.S. President George Bush said Saturday that some of Iraq's nuclear capability probably survived massive U.S.-led Gulf war air raids and demanded that Saddam Hussein cooperate in a U.N. probe to ensure the ceasefire accord has not been broken.

An Iraqi "defector" has told the United States that there may be four nuclear installations in northern Iraq that the United States was not aware of during the bombing missions, prompting the United Nations to review the situation.

"The implications are that he is violating agreements with the overall peace agreement," which called for an elimination of Baghdad's nuclear capability, Mr. Bush said in an interview in Los Angeles with television reporters. He was in the west coast city for a private dinner.

"One, we've got to establish the facts and, two, we have to make clear that he will not remain with a nuclear capability," Mr. Bush said. "And yes ... probably some of it did survive."

"So we've got to probe — the U.N. has a committee," he said.

"They must go and examine every-thing. They must go into the geography, into the places that defectors or any other pieces of intelligence lead us."

He said the Iraqi president "better be open about it. And that's one more reason there will not be any normalised relations under the status quo."

Mr. Bush said the United States will not normalise relations with Baghdad as long as President Saddam is in power.

Under terms of the permanent ceasefire to end the Gulf war, Iraq was required to scrap its nuclear capability — something Mr. Bush earlier had said was destroyed by the allied raids that pounded Baghdad's installations during the war.

The U.N. Security Council has set up a special commission to ensure compliance with the ceasefire accord and that panel will follow up on the testimony of an Iraqi "defector." The "defector" is said to be a nuclear scientist who fled to an enclave in northern Iraq under the protection of U.S. forces.

Mr. Bush said he was going to make certain Iraq complies "with

what is now international law through an agreement with all the parties that they would fully account for what's left."

"I can state this without contradiction: (Iraq's) ability to project all this into an atomic weapon has been set back into the dark ages."

Mr. Bush said. "But nevertheless, you're right when you say there should — or indicate — that there should be concern about (its) possession of any of these things."

The president said the United States had no intention of easing economic sanctions against Iraq as long as President Saddam was in power, saying, "will we lighten up on international sanctions as long as he's there? No."

The U.N. Sanctions Committee has softened its position somewhat, voting on Wednesday to allow 31 countries that froze Iraqi assets to release them, provided Baghdad could prove the funds would be used for humanitarian needs.

The United States will not release the \$1.4 billion in assets it froze soon after Iraq invaded Kuwait.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 77111-19

PROGRAMME TWO
18:00 Les Diamants du President
19:00 News in French
19:15 Weekly Sports Magazine
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Empty Nest
21:00 Nancy Wake
22:00 News in English
22:30 Murder in Texas

PRAYER TIMES

03:55 Fajr
05:27 (Sunrise) Dhuha
12:53 Dhuhr
16:13 'Asr
19:38 Maghrib
20:18 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Sweifish Tel. 810740
Assembly of God Church, Tel. 637855
St. Joseph Church Tel. 634990
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440.

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Teresian Church Tel. 623566
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541
Anglican Church Tel. 623583, Tel. 628543
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261
Syrian Orthodox Church Tel. 771751
Assam International Church Tel. 685326
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811265
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 654932
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691.

WEATHER

It will be relatively hot and winds will be northerly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Amman 21 / 33
Aqaba 25 / 40
Deserts 20 / 36

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Mohammed Mansur 741444
Dr. Awwad Al Haj 771020
Dr. Abdul Aziz Talawa 783708
Dr. Youssef Sammour 615648
Pinar pharmacy 661912
Fardows pharmacy 783534
Al Asma pharmacy 637055
Nairoukh pharmacy 623672
Al Salame pharmacy 638730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shamseddin pharmacy 637660

JORDAN VALLEY

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 20, Aqaba 24. Humidity readings: Amman 31 per cent, Aqaba 25 per cent.

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 801228
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 605800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage Complaints 897467

HOSPITALS

AMMAN Municipality Complaints 787111
Telephone Information 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone 623101
Requis 623101
Abdali Telephone Requis 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 08-53200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200

INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
08:28 Dhahran (RJ)
10:15 Jeddah, Samarra (RJ)
10:45 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
11:15 Larnaca, Damascus (RJ)
17:38 Riyadh (RJ)
19:00 Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

14:05 Bahrain (GF)
20:25 Cairo (MS)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
12:00 Riyadh (RJ)
12:30 Montreal, New York (RJ)
20:45 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
21:30 Dubai, Muscat (RJ)

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Israeli army to draft thousands of Soviets

TEL AVIV (AP) — The Israeli army is taking the first steps to draft thousands of Soviet youths who have arrived in the war zone since 1989, a newspaper said Sunday. A military source confirmed moves were under way to draft the new immigrants, but he gave no details. Israel drafts both men and women for two to three years at age 18 and traditionally has required immigrants to take at least basic training and do a month's annual reserve duty until age 50. Immigrant youth, both male and female age 18-30, are required to serve longer periods than older immigrants, some up to three years. What makes the current draft of Soviets different is that it will be a large number of new soldiers. The daily Yedioth Ahronoth said the number of Soviet immigrants to be inducted amounted to "a number of thousand" this year. Many immigrants have already undergone preliminary medical examinations at induction centres, the newspaper said. It said the army has determined that many of the Soviet youths have better educational qualifications than native Israelis. However, it also quoted military sources as saying a poll conducted by the behavioural sciences department revealed that most of the immigrants have little motivation to serve, particularly in combat units. "But this is only a preliminary poll," one unnamed source was quoted as saying.

Kabul said to block water to rebels

ISLAMABAD (R) — Afghan authorities have blocked water supplies to rebel-held areas in the western province of Herat, forcing thousands of people to migrate, a rebel news service said Saturday. It quoted a message from the province's main guerrilla commander, Ismail Khan, as saying the Soviet-backed authorities had closed water channels from the Hari Rud River to the rebel-held areas of Zindajan and Gilmairan districts west of Herat town. "The lands are becoming barren in the area and local people could not find even a little water for drinking," the Mofa news service said. Thousands of people started leaving their homes on June 12 to take refuge in districts bordering Iran, it said. No independent confirmation of the report was available.

French rightists end congress in Lebanon

BEIRUT (R) — About 300 French right wingers left Lebanon on Sunday after a two-day congress to show support for the country, where the government is rebuilding central authority after 16 years of civil war. France, which ruled Lebanon from 1920-1943 and is viewed as the major foreign power ally of the nation's Christian minority, has expressed concern at the increasing Syrian influence. Foreign Minister Roland Dumas said last month Paris would ask Syria to withdraw its 40,000 troops deployed in Lebanon. The conference, organised by the Radical Party — a small faction of the opposition Conservative Union for French Democracy — debates a wide ranging cooperation treaty between Lebanon and Syria.

Iranian newspaper blasts corruption

NICOSIA (AP) — An Iranian newspaper said Sunday that widespread official corruption was a widening crisis that should be stamped out by force, the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported. The agency quoted the daily Abrar, a radical newspaper generally opposed to the liberal administration of President Hashemi Rafsanjani, as saying that recent cases of official embezzlement highlighted the scale of the social malaise. Abrar referred to recent disclosures by Iran's prosecutor general, Ali Younesi, about a group of bank managers and other employees caught with millions of food coupons, with which they bought food and other goods at subsidised prices, and sold them on the black market for outrageous sums. Abrar complemented the judiciary for exposing corruption, but said "eradication of the problem demands far greater efforts." It added that "one way to combat corruption is the use of force but force is not enough by itself and must be complemented by pinpointing the root causes of corruption in the society."

Kuwaitis urged to hand over illegal weapons

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait's newspaper Sunday called on citizens to hand in illegal guns seized in the Gulf war by a Monday deadline or face tragic consequences. An editorial in Al Fajr Al Jadid (New Dawn) appealed to wives in particular to make their husbands surrender the thousands of guns in civilian hands since Iraq left the emirate in February. "Frankly we cannot understand how a sensible wife would accept that her husband carries weapons. Does she not realise that this weapon may be used against her in a moment of passing fury," it said. The government one month ago ordered the surrender of unlicensed firearms in a crackdown on armed crime and vigilante law against suspected collaborators with Iraq. Crown Prince Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah said last month that anti-tank, anti-aircraft and other weapons had fallen into private hands and urged citizens to turn them in.

ANNOUNCEMENT FROM THE MINISTRY OF WATER AND IRRIGATION /WATER AUTHORITY INVITATION FOR BID NO. L 20/91

The Water Authority announces the issuance of the above mentioned Bid for the Supply of Two Deep Drilling Rigs. Suppliers registered at the Ministry of Trade and Industry, who are interested in the participation of the bid, may inspect and purchase the tender documents from the Tender Division at Water Authority's main office in Amman. A complete set of the tender documents may be purchased against the payment of a non-refundable fee of JD 300.

All bids must be accompanied by a bank guarantee of JD 125,000 and must be delivered to the Water Authority, not later than 12:00 hours on Saturday 20/7/1991.

Eng. Mutazz Belbelsi
Secretary General
Water Authority

Home News

JORDAN TIMES, MONDAY, JUNE 17, 1991 3

New dumping site set up near Swaqa

AMMAN (J.T.) — A site for dumping poisonous waste from factories will be ready after the coming Eid Al Adha feast, which ends by June 25, but factories have to follow a set of procedures before benefiting from the new facility, which lies some 52 kilometres east of Swaqa (located some 65 kilometres south of Amman).

The announcement was made by Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Secretary General Mohammad Bani Hani who noted that ministry workers were now busy setting up barbed wires around the 850 dunum plot of land, and carrying out other necessary work to make the dumping site ready for use.

Workers are also setting up a one-metre high earth wall, fixing sign posts and constructing facilities for management and supervision officials to be stationed at the site, Dr. Bani Hani said.

The Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs announced in February 1990 that it had designated areas, away from urban and rural regions, to serve as dumping grounds for dangerous waste, and that the areas selected would have pits for dumping the waste and would be cordoned off to prevent any human, agricultural and animal contact with the area.

Jordan has many factories which turn out dangerous waste, some reaching rivers and streams. Many households also cause pollution to the environment by throwing away used batteries and other waste materials which can only endanger public health, according to the ministry statement upon announcing the measures for the dumping sites.

The ministry has drawn up certain regulations and rules for managing the dumping site through a series of meetings with owners of various industrial firms and has set up a technical committee, of specialists from both

sides, to draw up a special plan in this respect and to advise on means of financing the cost of the dumping site and its operations, according to Dr. Bani Hani.

Factories wishing to benefit from the dumping site would be paying the cost at the rate of one per one thousand of their respective capitals, and these factories would also cover the cost of transporting the waste from its location to the dumping site, Dr. Bani Hani explained.

He said that the ministry had already defined types of waste that can be dumped in the selected site and stipulated that these should be covered with soil.

The ministry official referred to an international agreement, on controlling the process of dumping dangerous waste, which was signed by Jordan, along with 110 other nations, at an international meeting held in the Swiss city of Basel in 1989. Jordan, he said, is committed to this agreement and will do all it can to protect the environment from any form of pollution.

Dr. Bani Hani noted that the rules concerning the dumping of waste prohibit any individual or organisation from dumping any dangerous or poisonous waste from any source and in any form in any place other than this dumping site.

In explaining the process of dumping, Dr. Bani Hani noted that the workers would be building cement walls to prevent leakage or seepage of waste into the soil.

Dr. Bani Hani voiced satisfaction with the level of cooperation with the various Jordanian industrial firms, but he urged them to settle payment of their contributions to the project.

Dr. Bani Hani also noted that his ministry was holding contacts with the World Bank to obtain a loan and expertise for the future development of the dumping site, a process which, he said, would involve the Royal Scientific Society.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan inspects a guard of honour mounted on Sunday on the occasion of a graduation ceremony at Muta University (Petra photo)

Muta U. holds graduation ceremony

KARAK (Petra) — The military wing of Muta University Sunday turned out the fourth group of graduates at a ceremony held under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan.

The military wing offers military training at its police and military sciences faculties as well as electrical and mechanical engineering courses, humanities, Arabic, English, Sciences, business administration and law.

In an address at the graduation ceremony, Prince Hassan said that the graduation coincided with the Kingdom's celebrations of the Great Arab Revolt and Army Day anniversaries and the endorsement of the National Charter which paves the ground for political pluralism in the country.

"I am delighted to congratulate

you as you receive your degrees and leave this institution to take up your new positions among your brothers who have been standing guard defending Jordan's security and dignity," said Crown Prince in his address.

"The Jordanian Armed Forces constitute a professional army which was created to embody and protect the principles and goals of the Great Arab Revolt, and this is a great mission," said the Prince. He noted that the Jordanian leadership decided that the Arab army should be totally separated from and working absolutely out of contact with political parties so that the Armed Forces remain in the service of all people and at the same time constitute a shield providing protection for the country, its constitution and democracy.

Graduates of the military wing are normally nominated for Muta University seats by the Jordanian Armed Forces and the Public Security Department, both of which absorb the graduates in their various functions.

The ceremony was also addressed by University President Awad Khleifat who outlined the various measures introduced over the past few years in the course of developing the military and civilian wings.

At the end of the ceremony, Crown Prince Hassan distributed diplomas and degrees to the graduates.

Muta University was established near Karak through a Royal decree issued in 1981. The university's civilian wing, whose various premises are still being constructed, was established in 1986.

Jordan attends environment talks

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan is taking part in the fourth meeting of an executive committee entrusted with managing and operating the so-called Montreal fund, and the third meeting for countries which had signed the Montreal protocol on the protection of the environment.

Dr. Mohammad Bani Hani, secretary general of the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment, who is leading the Jordanian delegation to the meetings to be held in Nairobi, Kenya, said that 80 nations had signed the Montreal protocol which calls for the establishment of a special fund to finance projects designed to protect the environment from pollution.

Participants from these 80 nations will take part in the four-day meetings, which will open on June 17, Dr. Bani Hani said in his statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

The meetings will focus attention on the various activities and achievements of the executive committee that operates the fund, especially in areas and programmes benefiting the countries of the Third World in the fight against industrial pollution and its serious effect on the ozone layer, said Dr. Bani Hani in a statement before departure with his team to the Kenyan capital Sunday.

The creation of the Montreal fund, which followed a general conference in the Canadian city, was part of the technical, financial and administrative measures taken in the course of implementing the terms of the Montreal protocol in this field, Dr. Bani Hani said.

Several nations have so far pledged to provide cash for the fund, amounting to \$53 million and expected to rise to \$160

million, with further expected pledges from the rich nations, said Dr. Hani.

The Nairobi meetings, he said, will review reports about these U.N. agencies' activities and new proposals.

Jordan, Dr. Bani Hani said, was elected member of the Montreal fund's executive committee,

Committee says families of expatriates are aided, but more could be done

Returnees demand to know fate of Palestinians in Kuwait

By Nur Sati

Special to the Jordan Times
AMMAN — Concerned over the plight of Jordanians and Palestinians in Kuwait, the Committee for Jordanian Returnees recently applied for permission, through the Kuwaiti embassy in Amman, to allow a Jordanian investigatory mission to go to the emirate.

Director of the committee Mohammad Mulhim said he filed in the application two weeks ago and so far no reply has been given to them. "I feel it is my duty to insist, but I cannot do anything else," Mr. Mulhim said talking about the remaining 170,000 Palestinians in Kuwait.

The application asked for a statement by the Kuwaiti government about the status of the Palestinians and asked for a statement that would allow the Palestinians to travel freely to and from Kuwait and to work there.

According to Mr. Mulhim, the application also asked that a delegation be invited and received in Kuwait and that various missions and observers be allowed to attend hearings. "We do not want to see any discrimination. Teachers and students, for example, are not permitted to attend school," Mr. Mulhim said. "A declaration (statement) by the Kuwaiti government means a lot to us," he added.

The committee's concern over the Palestinians is growing as more and more "alarming and disturbing" reports are received through Amnesty International and the Red Cross, Mr. Mulhim told the Jordan Times.

Mr. Mulhim, who recently returned from London and Geneva, said that international agencies felt there was some kind of blanket on news about the plight of Palestinians; and their status.

Agencies, such as the World Council of Churches, the Council for Voluntary Agencies and the Arab Human Rights Organisations, have expressed a need to send missions to Kuwait, Mr. Mulhim said. "But only, Amnesty International has been granted permission to send two missions in different occasions," he added.

While the committee awaits a reply from the Kuwaiti government, "we are as much concerned for the returnees here in Jordan," Mr. Mulhim said. Around 200,000 Jordanian and Palestinian returnees are currently in the country seeking some means of livelihood. "Most of them joined the unemployed," Mr. Mulhim added.

Ten per cent of the returnees are well off, Kuwaiti banks show that 35 per cent of Palestinians never had deposits in Kuwait or anywhere else because they were either farmers or drivers. "As Palestinians," Mr. Mulhim continued, "they had to support themselves in Kuwait and support their families in the occupied territories or in Jordan. Equally important to them was to educate their children, or at least one of them. This category," he explained, "after leaving Kuwait, were badly exposed."

The committee regards this group as their priority in terms of giving assistance. Another group, constituting around 55 per cent, have deposits. "Banks allow them to apply or receive deposits," Mr. Mulhim said. "I believe this category is getting all their deposits eventually."

The committee, which was formed by a group of returnees and four members of GUVS (General Union for Voluntary Societies) shortly after the war, has sought different venues for aid.

Mr. Mulhim explained that the committee, for its part, is paying JD 50 per family, provided the applicant has no property in Jordan, no deposits in Kuwait and has not received aid from other sources. Recently, in a two-week visit to London and Geneva Mr. Mulhim met officials of Amnesty International and ACVA (Council for Voluntary Associations, comprising General Unions of Voluntary Societies in various countries with Sudan as the only Arab member). The purpose of the visit was to seek out help, especially for the Palestinians still in Kuwait. Most of the organisations were keen to send missions to Kuwait, he said.

125 to be reinstated

AMMAN (J.T.) — The government will reappoint 125 citizens dismissed from their posts for political reasons during 1991, as the rest of those dismissed for similar reasons had already been appointed in government positions in 1990, according to a statement by Director General of the Budget Department Salman Tarawneh.

The reappointment of those dismissed for political reasons came in implementation of directives by the Council of Ministers and pledges taken by Prime Minister Mudar Badran before Parliament, Mr. Tarawneh said in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

Mr. Tarawneh did not disclose the number of employees reinstated in 1990, but said that public organisations, considered as semi-governmental institutions which do not fall within the "government officials' manning table" system, have absorbed some 600 such employees in 1990 and 1991. Columnists in the daily press

had been advocating the cause of the dismissed employees noting that those who were reinstated were offered only half the salary of their colleagues and that some of them were given jobs far away from their homes, making it quite difficult for them to rejoin public service.

Mr. Tarawneh, who was speaking one day after the Cabinet had endorsed the manning table, said that during 1991 a total of 1,633 new jobs would be created in various government offices. But he noted that the Ministry of Education will acquire most people, accounting for 1,051 posts, followed by the Health Ministry, which will have 129 posts and the Ministry of Justice with 65 jobs. The rest of the jobs would go to the ministries of youth, culture, telecommunications, agriculture, public works, higher education, finance and industry and trade.

Jordan, Germany sign minutes of consultations

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan and Germany Sunday signed minutes of the annual consultations on technical and capital cooperation. The minutes include a thorough review of projects financed by Germany and future scopes of cooperation. The signing of the minutes paves the ground for official German-Jordanian negotiations, to take place in November.

WHAT'S GOING ON

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Exhibition of photographs by Bernard Guillot at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ An exhibition of paintings and sculptures by Showqi Shoukri, Mohammad Al Jalous and Rifqi Al Razzaz at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation (10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.).
- ★ Palestinian heritage exhibition at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Photo exhibition by Hans Richter at the Goethe Institute.
- ★ Poster exhibition at the British Council.

LECTURE

- ★ Lecture entitled "Management of Non-Profit Arts Organisations" by renowned conductor Franklyn Shouat at the National Music Conservatory, behind the Kuwaiti Embassy — 6:00 p.m.

POETRY RECITAL

- ★ Poetry readings by Palestinian poet Mahmoud Darwish at the Palace of Culture, Al Hussein Youth City — 7:00 p.m.

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Noor Al Hussein Foundation
And
The British Council
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— The British Council. Tel. 636147
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Jordan Times

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Reports James Baker should read

IN THE hands of the American secretary of state, James Baker, the search for peace in the Middle East has been sidetracked by a series of evasions and preconditions put forward by the Israeli government. But here and there, as impatience mounts in Washington and elsewhere over the delaying tactics of Mr. Shamir, voices are being raised, some of them quite unexpected, by those who would like to see the elusive "peace process" brought back onto the main line.

In London (in the last week of May) the retiring Chief Rabbi of Great Britain, Lord Jacobowitz, put his finger on the central issue. Describing the Israeli approach to the Palestine problem as "battered" and "self-destructive," Lord Jacobowitz declared that "we cannot forever dominate a million and a half Arabs, lord it over them." But it is the declared intention of Israel's present government to do just that, by retaining control of territories acquired by war, and in so doing to condemn their Palestinian inhabitants for ever to a choice between servitude and exile. Unless Mr. Baker and President Bush are prepared to meet this challenge, they would do better to admit defeat now rather than continue to raise expectations which they cannot satisfy.

But perhaps Mr. Bush and Mr. Baker have more allies than they realise. In that forthright statement by the chief rabbi (and despite the fact that he subsequently tried to take back his words), the use of the pronoun "we" was interesting. Lord Jacobowitz is a British citizen and an appointed member of the upper house of the British parliament. But his statement indicated that he identifies himself with the people — though not the government — of Israel, as do many Jews in Europe and the USA. And it indicated even more clearly that the chief rabbi finds himself repelled by the dominating and insensitive policies of the present government of Israel.

There is indeed much about the attitudes and actions of Mr. Shamir's government to repel all but the most fanatical supporter of Israel. In maintaining its occupation of Arab territory, in open defiance of U.N. resolutions, Israel is inevitably involved in equally flagrant breaches of international conventions concerning human rights. This is graphically illustrated in two reports recently published by independent human rights organisations, which add their criticism to those published earlier by Amnesty International and others.

In an 82-page report on Israeli prisons, Middle East Watch (based in New York, chairman Robert Bernstein) observes that Israel operates a dual prison system, one with high standards for Israeli prisoners, the other in which nearly 10,000 Palestinians are held, many of them without trial, in conditions of exceptional squalor and degradation. In particular, the report, written by Eric Goldstein, makes stringent criticisms of the Israeli prison camp at Ketziot in the Negev, where prisoners are held in tents in temperatures which exceed 100 degrees Fahrenheit in summer and go down to freezing in winter. Ketziot is in itself "a clear violation of the Fourth Geneva Convention, which forbids the transfer of prisoners from occupied territories to the territory of the occupying power."

Even more damning is the 150-page report of the Israeli Information Centre for Human Rights (Betslem) on the methods used by the Israeli security service Shin Bet (or Shabak) in the interrogation of Palestinian prisoners. Based on the examination of 41 cases where the information obtained was beyond doubt, the report presents first hand accounts of torture and intimidation, with illustrations and accounts published in the Israeli press. What Jews outside Israel must find hardest to accept about this Israeli document is the assertion that the institutions of which Israelis are most proud are all in some way implicated in the ill-treatment of Palestinian prisoners. The courts connive at it; doctors are aware of it; few public figures make any attempt to stop it. And as the authors of the Betslem report conclude: "The authorities in a country where torture is being used are either directly involved or passively condoning."

Perhaps the chief rabbi has got wind of these two reports. It does not look as though Mr. Baker has seen them. Like Israel's colonisation of the occupied territories, they call for some tough talking. The practices they describe are not simply illegal, they are cruel and counter-productive; and they discredit both those who exercise them and those, in Israel and elsewhere, who pass by on the other side — Middle East International, London.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'Y daily Sunday called on the Arab countries to be careful and to beware of the American promises about solutions for the Middle East issue in the Israeli-Palestine problem in the light of Washington's present attitude towards the adamant position of the Israeli government. The Arabs must avoid any optimism with regard to American pledges or promises, and they ought to open their eyes wide to the fact that all the promises had been futile so far and nothing has been achieved, the paper noted. Not a single step has yet been taken towards the establishment of the promised American peace at a time when the Israeli government is hardening its position and refusing all bids for a just and durable peace, the paper pointed out. The daily was referring in particular to recent statements by the U.S. Secretary of State James Baker who told his Israeli counterpart in Washington that the U.S. administration has confidence in the Israeli prime minister and his foreign minister, but that it does not trust those officials who adopt an extreme hardened position with regard to the American peace initiative. The paper said that this can only be interpreted as a sort of appeasement to the Israeli government which continues to lay obstacles in the path of peace.

A columnist in Al Dastour focuses attention on the pollution of the Zaqra River water and calls for a scientific search for its causes. Mohammad Daoud says that a report in the local press by the Amman Chamber of Industry casts doubts about official reports that the pollution was caused solely by the waste dumped in the river by 31 factories in the Zaqra River basin. The chamber's report contains a great deal of facts which can only cast doubt on a report offered by the official authorities which led to the closure of a number of factories, the writer notes. We are not trying to cover up for those factories which are responsible for certain levels of pollution in the dam, but we are also cautioning against considering the factories as scapegoats to be blamed for the damage inflicted on the crops in the Jordan Valley, the writer adds. He says the Royal Scientific Society (RSS), which is a scientific institution, can determine through a series of tests whether the official reports are correct before meaningful steps can be taken to put things right. Cooperation is essential between the Amman Chamber of Industry and the concerned authorities as well as the RSS if the problem is to be solved, the writer continues.

Weekly Political Pulse

SPEAKING of the Jahiliya and the fear that the Arab World might be drifting back to it, one cannot think of a worse example of such manifestation than the lingering tribal justice systems. As recent as one month ago a man walked into the office of another man working in the same public building and found two men conducting their daily work. He asked the two which of them was so and so. The "right" man stood up to present himself in the normal courteous and friendly manner but instead of receiving a friendly hand shake, the stranger pulled his gun and fired at him point blank and killing him instantly. It was later determined that the killer had murdered the innocent man because one of the members of the tribe of the dead man had earlier caused the death of a member of the killer's clan. Neither the killer nor the victim ever met or knew one another. They were complete strangers to one another. If this is not epitome of the Jahiliya then I do not know what it is. An innocent man murdered in cold blood because another man from his grand family had earlier caused the death of a cousin or nephew is beyond comprehension on the eve of the 21st century. What injustice and what arbitrary rendering of revenge. What can ever be more un-Islamic than such a system of justice? What adds insult to injury is that the country has always prided itself on such a system of tribal justice and the government has been going along with it ever since the establishment of the Kingdom. What is worse, this system of justice goes on day in and day out, year in and year out unabated and without as much as causing a wink in the Jordanian society.

A real Jahiliya manifestation

I am truly pleased that His Majesty King Hussein had alluded to the fear that the Arabs may be reverting inadvertently or inadvertently to the Jahiliya mentality. By so doing, the King has given all of us ammunition to attack the remnants of such days of ignorance and darkness that still linger in our souls. It would surely be a most welcome gesture of the government to take a bold initiative in this vein in order to uproot all manifestations of the pre-Islamic era still festering in the Jordanian society. One can suggest many ways to wage war on the Jahiliya symptoms in the Kingdom but the most effective way to combat the archaic and grossly unjust tribal justice is to sponsor a all-tribal conference to which all tribal chiefs would be invited. The purpose of such an all-out conference would be to examine the ways and means necessary for the eradication of tribal justice once and for all. Only through the blessing of the tribes of the country, big and small, may the country have an opportunity to halt the senseless carnage of innocent people. Concurrently with such a campaign against tribal injustice, the religious leaders of the country are called upon to make the theme of their sermons on Fridays and Sundays the need to obliterate such a system completely as sacrilegious. There is no way that Islam or Christianity can condone such continuation of injustice. The two religions must join hands here and now to stop it immediately.

The public as well needs to be reeducated in order to rely on the official court system of the country for the administration of

justice. No one would advocate the spread of crime with impunity. The country obviously requires a more efficient court system in order to render justice in the shortest possible time. As long as the civil and criminal courts of law in the Jordan are so wantonly lacking, the people would be driven to taking the law in to their own hands. There has been so much talk about the urgent need to revamp the entire judicial system in the country with a view to making it more efficient and proficient. The trouble is that the talk remained talk with nothing concrete done to amend the archaic judicial system. People need to believe that their grievances whether criminal or civil can be redressed expeditiously and justly. How many times it has to be said before someone somewhere begins to take the complaints against the state's judicial system seriously. One look and one visit to the courts of the country, especially the lower courts, would readily reveal the obvious. Nevertheless, as lacking as the country's court systems may be, there can be no excuse for the continuation of the current tribal way of taking it on innocent people every time a crime is committed or a death is negligently caused. The intervention of the government and Parliament is urgently needed to stem this Jahiliya phenomenon and surgically remove it from the traditions of the Kingdom. There is no room for revenge in Islam and the sooner the country and its people respect this edict the sooner the Jahiliya days will be behind us. Too bad the National Charter did not address this problem.

Pro-Israel lobby, AIPAC: A cloak and dagger operation at heart of U.S.

By Lloyd Grove
Washington Post

Subject: Israel.

Target: Nancy Kassebaum.

Methods: Sweet reason, shock therapy.

A DOZEN pro-Israel activists filed into Kassebaum's Senate office. Two staffers carried in extra chairs, and the Kansas Republican helped set them up.

"The question," Shaol Pozee told Kassebaum, a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, "is how do we go about getting this peace process going?" A retired discount shoe store tycoon, sporting athletic footwear this morning, Pozee used to share a back-yard fence with her father, Alf Landon — which is why he was there. She nodded, politely. The pleasantries were over.

"Israel," Pozee told her, "will do everything short of national suicide to make peace."

"Isn't the PLO going to have to be there at some point, Shaol?" She demanded of Pozee, a frequent political contributor — though not, in recent years, to Kassebaum. The room fell deathly still at the mention of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, as though someone had just suggested... national suicide. "It seems to me that this is an opportunity," Kassebaum went on, her jaw set, "and everybody's got to be willing to give."

Frowns spread around the room.

So much for sweet reason. Kassebaum's visitors that morning, most of them with Kansas connections, were from the American Israel Public Affairs Committee — AIPAC, for short — the foreign policy equivalent of the National Rifle Association. Their mission, a life-defining one, is "strengthening the American-Israel relationship," mainly by securing American aid for the Jewish state and blocking U.S. weapons sales to hostile Arabs.

It was March 19: The Senate was poised to take up the Desert Storm "dire emergency" appropriations package, which included \$650 million in extra aid for Israel. The country already gets \$3 billion annually, and hundreds of millions more from joint military ventures — more than any other recipient of American largesse. AIPAC had deployed a battalion of 1,500 "citizen lobbyists" from their hotel to Capitol Hill armed with 10 pages of talking points and individualised computer printouts of their appointments with members of Congress. It cost more than \$13,000 just to lease the buses.

Kassebaum was already on record against the additional aid. "I need to say something here," erupted Allen Mothersill of Shawnee, Kan., a member of AIPAC's grass-roots brigade. "First of all, I'm not Jewish, okay? It's important for you to understand that." The senator nodded, understandingly. Mothersill, a big, bearded man, looked ready to leap from his chair.

"I've seen this country stab its own people in the back," he said, his eyes misting. "We should tell Israel, 'Here's the money,' whatever the hell it is they need. George Bush and this goddamn administration..." Suddenly he was sobbing. He gasped for breath. "They got a country. They don't want much. They got New Jersey!" Tears moistened his cheeks. "I'm sorry," he trailed off.

A weak smile was plastered on the senator's face. Pozee pretended that nothing unusual had

occurred.

"The Desert Storm supplemental is coming up today," he said breezily. "I hope you'll support it."

"Shaol, it's going to pass without any difficulty," Kassebaum curtly cut him off. She rolled her eyes. "That's a foregone conclusion."

The next day, she voted against the package, which the Senate nevertheless approved, 92 to 8. Still, AIPAC is not known for giving up easily.

AIPAC is one of the most resented and feared lobbying organisations in the United States. Kassebaum is one of very few in Congress who will speak bluntly about the group on the record.

"Sometimes," she said, "they're just absolutely, totally inflexible."

If so, perhaps it's because so many Jews, no matter how comfortable in American society, feel themselves linked to a long history of worldwide persecution, ending with the Holocaust in which 6 million perished. Israel, in the minds of some, may be the only safe haven — and thus deserve special treatment.

Those in Congress and elsewhere who disagree, or complain about AIPAC's heavy-handedness, tend to do so sotto voce — terrified of being branded with the epithet "antisemitic" or, even worse, "self-hating Jew." In March, half the Senate and a third of the House accepted invitations to schmooze with 2,100 true believers at AIPAC's 32nd annual policy conference, an impressive show of pro-Israel power. In the oft-repeated catchphrase of AIPAC's detractors, the lobby has made Israel "America's 51st state."

But now, with the arrival of the post-Gulf war era, AIPAC is grappling with a potential "New World Order" in which foregone conclusions will be a thing of the past.

In stark contrast to Ronald Reagan's, the Bush administration is perceived by Israel and its supporters as one of the least friendly to Israel in history. No matter that AIPAC helped Bush gain authorisation for Desert Storm by lobbying Congress behind the scenes. Since the war, to which Israel's contribution was absorbing Iraqi missile strikes without retaliating — the administration has been prodding the stiff-necked Likud government and its Arab antagonists into an as-yet-undefined peace conference. Bush and his surrogates have called upon the tiny country to give up territory to its enemies, and condemned Jewish settlements in occupied Arab lands as an "obstacle" to peace, a stance the Likudniks regard as biased by definition.

President Bush and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, in the delicate phrase of a former Israeli diplomat, "have communications difficulties." And Secretary of State James A. Baker III, who travelled to Israel in March for the first time in his life, has been privately assuring Arab leaders, according to a close adviser of one, that this administration owes nothing to the U.S. Jewish community, and domestic politics will play no role in its approach to the Middle East peace process. Baker's spokeswoman, Margaret Tutwiler, declined to comment on this account.

"Do they (AIPAC) have a friend in this administration? No, they don't," said a well-placed U.S. official who spoke on condi-

tion of anonymity. "George Bush is a very different animal from Ronald Reagan on this issue..."

"We've so far avoided any out-and-out fights," the officials continued. "The biggest fights are yet to come. The fights that are going to unfold in the course of the peace process... will make everything else by comparison look like kid stuff."

While awaiting the administration's proposal for a multi-billion-dollar arms sale to Saudi Arabia, AIPAC is already girding for another big battle. It will probably be joined in September, when Israel is expected to seek an additional \$10 billion in housing loan guarantees over the next five years. The loans would help the Jewish state absorb a new wave of Soviet immigrants.

But the likely U.S. response is "iffy," according to Sen. Terry Sanford (D-N.C.), chairman of the Foreign Relations Subcommittee on Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs. "And I think it's iffy because of their efforts to continue settlements in the West Bank," a practice that contravenes longstanding U.S. policy.

AIPAC officials are frankly nervous about the outcome.

"Any time the Israeli government takes a position different from U.S. policy," said Rep. Howard Berman (D-Calif.), a member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, "some members of Congress then see some diminution in their enthusiasm for U.S. support for Israel, AIPAC has to cope with that."

As the pro-Israel lobby anointed to speak for the major U.S. Jewish organisations — not, as some persist in believing, Israel's registered agent — AIPAC has prospered mightily since its birth 37 years ago. In the past decade, the lobby has quadrupled its staff to more than 100 and quintupled its membership to 55,000 households — attracting a new breed of non-Jewish activists like Allen Mothersill — while its member-financed budget has grown even more from \$1.4 million in 1980 to \$12 million in 1991.

It owes much of its growth to Tom Dine, the lobby's executive director for the past decade, a charismatic proponent of pressure-group politics.

Yet AIPAC's rapid expansion has forced it to cope with a host of competing constituencies — from liberal Democratic Jews to conservative Republican members of Congress, from American doves to Israeli hard-liners. The lobby also faces mounting and contradictory criticism, from a wide array of political activists both here and in Israel. It is accused, alternately, of climbing into bed with the executive branch at the expense of its friends in Congress; allying itself with the Republican Party at the expense of its ties to the Democrats; and becoming a creature of the Likud Party at the expense of Labour — "representing," according to Yossi Beilin, a Labour member of the Israeli parliament, "the 'Israel That Refuses'."

AIPAC officials heatedly dispute the charges, and privately complain that such dissension in the ranks serves only the enemies of Israel and the Jewish people.

Publicly, the lobby defends the Likud government, a stance that puts it at odds with much of U.S. Jewry, and takes no position on settlements. Behind the scenes, it remonstrates with the Israelis against Likud policies that irritate the U.S. Department.

But Beilin complains that

AIPAC has closed its ears to the views of Israeli moderates. He said that as spokesman for the opposition from 1977 to 1984, he was continually rebuffed when he sought AIPAC's backing for Labourite peace proposals. "With all due respect," he recalled AIPAC officials telling him, "We are working with the government of Israel."

In 1984, when Labour and Likud formed a "unity government" under Labour Prime Minister Shimon Peres, Beilin saw his chance. He went to AIPAC once again, seeking support for Peres's plan for an international peace conference. "They said, 'With all due respect, this (Peres) is not the government of Israel, but only the prime minister of Israel,'" Beilin recounted.

If AIPAC vexes some Israelis, the Bush administration's attitude is equally vexing to AIPAC. Perhaps even more so — because in recent years the lobby has courted the executive branch as energetically as it has the Congress.

The general practice of executive branch lobbying, according to some staunch supporters of Israel, such as Rep. Larry Smith (D-Fla.), has occasionally led AIPAC to pull its punches in order not to alienate key administration policy-makers.

During the Reagan years, Smith said, "the administration itself felt no compunction about lining the AIPAC people up and saying, 'Look, we got an arms sale (to the Arabs) going, and we don't want anything to stop it. Try and get your friends to back off.'" Thus AIPAC occasionally withdrew from the field of battle.

In March 1986, Rep. Mel Levine (D-Calif.) was led to believe that he had AIPAC's support in his effort to stop a missile sale to Saudi Arabia. In fact, he discovered that the lobby had promised Secretary of State George Shultz that it wouldn't oppose the sale. Later AIPAC officials apologised to Levine.

In February of this year, the lobby first helped Sens. Arlen Specter (R-Pa.) and Charles Grassley (R-Iowa) prepare, then advised them not to send, a letter to Bush complaining that the administration was not fulfilling various military contracts with Israel. The president might be antagonised, AIPAC warned, at a time when the Desert Storm aid was being negotiated.

"I'm trying to be helpful to what I consider a worthy cause," Grassley said in May, after the letter was finally sent. "And I'm being discouraged by people who ought to be encouraging me."

Yet AIPAC officials often repeat the maxim that "the Congress is the bedrock of the American-Israel relationship." Indeed, the lobby has spent years cultivating key members of the House and Senate, who have come to believe that their votes on Israel have direct and immediate impact on their political careers. Thus AIPAC is always in a position to make noise about administration actions it doesn't like, and make trouble for legislation it considers bad for Israel.

Tom Dine is fond of quoting Deputy Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger: "Dine, I deal with you because you could hurt me."

AIPAC's influence with Congress is due partly to a widepread predisposition to back Israel anyway — though recent polls have shown that U.S. public opinion, while generally supportive of Israel, can vary sharply in reaction to events in the Middle East. Just as important to the lobby's clout is its reputation for

playing rough. "We are slaves to some of the lobbying groups," Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman Robert Byrd (D-W. Va.) complained on the day of the Desert Storm vote. "I do not have to name names," Byrd went on, "but I could."

"My colleagues think AIPAC is a very, very powerful organisation that is ruthless, and very, very alert," said another senator who, like so many on the subject of AIPAC, asked that his name not be named. "Eighty per cent of the senators here roll their eyes on some of the votes. They know that what they're doing isn't what they really believe is right, but they fight on a situation where they're liable to get beat up on."

"There's no countervailing sentiment," this senator added, noting that the small but ardent circle of pro-Israel activists, unlike its Arab-American counterpart, gives millions of dollars every election cycle to candidates for office. "If you vote contrary to the tremendous pressure of AIPAC, no one says to you, 'That's great.'"

The 1984 defeat of Sen. Charles Percy (R-Ill.) — the chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee who crossed the lobby once too often — is one of several in recent years ascribed to pro-Israel money. "All the Jews in America, from coast to coast, gathered to oust Percy," Dine claimed in a speech after the 1984 election. "And American politicians... got the message."

Yet many U.S. Jews are uncomfortable with such talk, and see the spectre of antisemitism behind every public reference to the "Jewish lobby," as AIPAC is frequently called by its opponents. Rep. Tim Wainwright (D-N.C.), whose House amendment to cut the \$650 million in extra aid for Israel received a mere 24 votes, blamed the Jewish community for its lopsided defeat.

"I do plan to find an opportunity to talk to my Jewish friends," the congressman vowed, "and say, 'Do you realise the impression that this thing makes, when you come down with full force, all the strength that you have, for a few bucks? My God, what does that say?'" Asked what it said, Valentine responded, "I don't know. You know what I mean." Understandably, perhaps, AIPAC prefers to operate outside the spotlight. "A lobby is like a night flower," AIPAC's director of foreign policy issues, Steven Rosen, once wrote in an internal memo. "It thrives in the dark and dies in the sun."

Thus the lobby has a touchy relationship with the Fourth Estate, a medium that other public affairs groups routinely exploit. Often, it finds itself criticising reporters. In May, it launched a grass-roots letter-writing campaign to CNN, protesting a special report that was critical of Israel. Reporter Mark Feldstein said hundreds of letters poured in. Along with some well-argued ones, taking their cue from AIPAC's "Monthly Update" to members, "some of it was pretty nasty," Feldstein said. "You know, 'self-hating Jew' was used, 'the Nazis would be proud of you,' 'the Jews have always been their own worst enemies.'"

AIPAC's president, Mayer Mitchell, an Alabama businessman, has a policy of simply not speaking to the press. The four AIPAC employees permitted contact with journalists seldom speak for attribution, and Dine would only agree to go on the record for this series if his quotes were read back to him for

approval. At AIPAC's recent policy conference, one of about 800 college students in attendance was asked to explain her commitment. "You really have to talk to the people in the press department," she replied, turning away.

In 1987, AIPAC's then communications director, Barbara Amouyal, argued that this press-shy attitude was counterproductive to lobby's aims. During her tenure, however, she often found herself trying to keep stories out of the news. Once, she pleaded with two Jewish newspapers not to print an item about a birthday party for Steven Rosen, during which a stripper performed on AIPAC premises. As an inducement to one of the papers, she offered, ironically, access to Tom Dine. She left AIPAC in frustration after 18 months.

Afterward, two AIPAC internal memos were aired by the CBS programme "60 Minutes" and other news organisations in October 1988, resulting in the worst publicity AIPAC has ever endured, plus a formal complaint to the Federal Election Commission. Amouyal supplied one AIPAC memo urging news stories supporting a pro-Israel Senate candidate and attacking Jesse Jackson's "extramarital affairs."

A second memo, which several reporters received over the transom, urged various political action committees to send money to pro-Israel candidates — suggesting that AIPAC employees had involved themselves in political campaigns, contravening a longstanding AIPAC policy. AIPAC officials still sputter in anger when they discuss Amouyal and her alleged misdeeds.

In January 1989, a coalition of Arab Americans, former diplomats and an ex-congressman accused the lobby of violating federal campaign spending limits by orchestrating the donations of 27 pro-Israel PACs. (AIPAC, which is not a political action committee, took its name long before PACs were invented). The FEC ruled last December that there was "insufficient evidence" to support the charge, though not everyone was persuaded.

"I think it's disingenuous for AIPAC to say, as for some peculiar reason they frequently do, that they don't direct any money," said Sen. John Chafee (R-R.I.), an occasional critic of Israel who was targeted in 1988, when his opponent, Richard Licht, received an estimated \$213,850 in pro-Israel PAC money.

The night before the FEC's announcement, the lobby's director of media liaison, Toby Dershowitz, visited the editor of Washington Jewish Week at his apartment. Over tea, he asked Andrew Silow Carroll not to assign his regular reporter, Larry Cohler, to the story. She argued that Cohler's previous AIPAC stories were inaccurate, and since several had been cited in the FEC complaint, he was a "player" in the case. Carroll recalled that he told her he'd think about it.

The next day, the ruling was announced and Carroll put Cohler on the story. A few days later, as Cohler was writing, Dershowitz phoned Carroll at his office. Also on the line was David Hishin, AIPAC's legal counsel. "Mr. Hishin has some things to say, and I think they're worth a listen," Dershowitz said, according to Carroll's notes of the conversation.

(Continued on page 5)

مكتبة الأصل

Democracy is key to Arab future

Democracy is gaining ground in some parts of the Arab world. Intellectuals and thinkers are increasingly advocating democratisation as a basic solution to the political and social problem plaguing the Arab world. Jordan Times Staff Reporter **Lamis Andoni** reviews the current debate.

AMMAN — The Gulf war — more specifically Iraq's defeat — and the sorry state of Arab affairs have intensified the debate and added to pressures in favour of democratisation which is increasingly viewed as the only way to restore Arab unity and strength.

From Morocco, in North Africa, to Qatar in the Gulf, an increasing number of Arab intellectuals, including those who had supported and opposed Iraq during the war, are openly challenging Arab governments by advocating unconditional democratisation and broader popular participation in government.

Many Arab governments, mostly under increasing popular pressures intensified by resentment of foreign military intervention in the region during the Gulf war, have introduced some legal reforms but experts note that changes remain weak and limited.

Furthermore, analysts warn, the growing debate in favour of democracy could be undermined by the prevalence of emergency laws in most Arab countries as well as by the absence of free press, the rise of conservative fundamentalism and political divisions among advocates of democracy in the Arab world.

Nevertheless those analysts believe that the emerging debate over democracy, which was mainly triggered by the Gulf war, contains a new line of political thinking that might prove to be a unifying factor — not necessarily among governments but among intellectuals and popular political groups and organisations in the Arab World.

The "new political thinking" has sprung from a critical assessment of the Gulf war by Arab thinkers, who believe that the absence of political freedoms has been a major factor which has led to the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait and the subsequent U.S.-led intervention in the Gulf.

In practical terms, some Arab thinkers argue, neither Iraqi President Saddam Hussein nor leaders of the oil-producing Gulf states would have "dared" to invade Kuwait or invite Western troops had there been democratic systems in their countries.

Saddam or the governments who had agreed to join the alliance? Secondly, the attitude towards the Arab people in the Gulf.

At a conference of Arab intellectuals held recently in Amman, Iraqi political scientist Wamith Omar Nathmi conceded that absence "of the minimum level of democracy in Iraq" had been one of the major mistakes of the Iraqi leadership.

Dr. Nathmi argued, however, that the Iraqi leadership's mistakes did not justify the other Arab government's participation in the war against Iraq. "If Iraq had made mistakes these governments had committed greater sins by taking part in the war against the Iraqi people," added Dr. Nathmi, who has been openly critical of Iraqi abuses of human rights in Kuwait.

Many intellectuals in the Gulf, including those who had always advocated Arab unity

pan Arab nationalists and other sectors of people across the Arab World for its invasion of Kuwait for the "prelude to achieving total Arab unity." But the Gulf war seems to have ended that particular debate over the righteousness of achieving Arab unity by force and consequently sacrificing democracy in the process.

"Democracy should not be sacrificed for any other value, or cause — including Arab unity," said a declaration approved by more than sixty prominent Arab thinkers who met in Amman.

In many ways this new conclusion could prove to be a turning point in pan Arab nationalist thinking which had in the past given priority to Arab sovereignty and unity over democracy — an argument often used by Arab intellectuals who were critical of the Iraqi leadership's repression but had supported Iraq throughout the crisis.

conservative cleric converged on the governor's palace in northern Saudi Arabia when officials banned the preacher from giving his sermon. The incident raised fears that the palace might crack down on the liberal reformist trend to placate the conservatives.

Clashes in Algeria between Muslim fundamentalists, who are demanding an Islamic state, and police this past week have also aroused concern over the fate of the democratic experiment in North African countries.

Moreover, martial laws, which exist in many Arab countries including Egypt, Syria, Iraq, Bahrain, Somalia, Mauritania and even Jordan (the government has frozen it pending complete cancellation), obstruct the path of democracy and render even civil rights guaranteed by the constitutions obsolete.

Signs of openness and liberalisation in Iraq are still in their infant stages and many Iraqis still view them with scepticism although Baghdad has lifted important restrictions on travel and other rights.

Until last week's bloody confrontation between government forces and Islamic fundamentalists, Algeria and Jordan — two countries which refused to join the U.S.-led alliance against Iraq — were viewed as the most promising models for democratic transformation in the Arab World.

Jordan has already ratified a national charter, allowing for a pluralistic system in Jordan in return for a clear-cut allegiance of the political parties to the constitution of the land.

Many Arab observers express concern that growing Islamic conservatism could hinder democratisation as it tries to impose its idea and strict Islamic codes in countries which have allowed political openings for their peoples.

In his speech following the approval of the National Charter, His Majesty King Hussein warned against the monopoly of one party over the political life in Jordan.

The situation in North Africa, however, seems more sensitive. Some human rights activists in Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia accuse the Islamic trend of trying to sabotage the struggle for democracy by aiming at controlling and monopolising political life in these countries.

"The real threat lies in that the Islamic fundamentalists are using democracy to end democracy," says a Moroccan human rights activist who preferred anonymity, in reference to statements by fundamentalists implying that they would cancel laws or constitutions allowing pluralism if they were elected to power.

"Analysts warn the growing debate in favour of democracy could be undermined by the prevalence of emergency laws in most Arab countries as well as by the absence of free press, the rise of conservative fundamentalism and political divisions among advocates of democracy in the Arab world."



Wamith Omar Nathmi

According to Egyptian thinker Talaat Musalam, the destruction of Iraqi military might and the presence of foreign troops in the Gulf has undermined Arab national security and completely tipped the balance of power in favour of Israel.

In a recent study Mr. Musalam, who is a retired major general, cites the "weak or absence of political popular participation" as a major factor which has caused a serious imbalance in the existing political order in the Arab World, thus increasing its vulnerability to foreign threats.

Most Arab studies about the Gulf war and its repercussions have reflected an emerging trend among Arab scholars and politicians — especially in the opposition — to address the shortcomings of Arab societies instead of merely blaming them on foreign factors.

But the war has also created a serious friction which has gone beyond governments to include the leading advocates for democracy in the Arab World. Many intellectuals are still divided on two major points: who is to blame more,

and democracy, disagree saying that the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait and lack of Arab solidarity with the Kuwaiti people have compelled them to support the war against Baghdad. "A major problem is that many Arabs do not see the people in the Gulf as part of the Arab Nation," said a Gulf political activist who did not want to be identified. "The Gulf crisis has revealed we are viewed as a distinctly wealthy class that deserves to be penalised... This is inaccurate... Many Arabs definitely do not distinguish between the Gulf regimes and the people," he added.

Dr. Abdul Khaleq Abdullah, a professor from the United Arab Emirates, warned recently that this attitude — by Arab thinkers and people — will only deepen the division among the Arab people. "The nature of the political rhetoric that is being used will only serve to alienate the people in the Gulf," said Dr. Abdullah, who is a well known advocate for democratisation in the Arab World.

Dr. Abdullah was apparently partly alluding to the support Iraq received from some

The real question, however, is whether the argument for democracy in the post Gulf war era will lead to fundamental changes in the Arab World or will be confined to narrow circles of Arab intellectuals or "elite."

For although the demands for democracy have become louder and more intense, there are indications that violations of human rights are on the increase, as a result of some governments resisting change. The most striking example is evident in reports from Kuwait of collective torture of Arab nationals — especially Palestinians and Jordanians — in retaliation for their governments' support for Iraq during the war.

In Saudi Arabia an embryonic democratic movement is reportedly faced by resistance of a growing conservative Islamic fundamentalist trend and repression by the government of King Fahd.

This conservative Islamic trend in Saudi Arabia has recently indicated that it would not avoid confrontation with the palace if need be. According to one report, thousands of supporters of an outspoken

Pro-Israel lobby in the U.S.

(Continued from page 4)

Ishin, according to Carroll's notes, said Cohler's reporting on AIPAC had raised serious questions about his accuracy. If he were to cover that week's ruling, Ishin warned the editor, AIPAC would reexamine his previous

Jordan seeks to block executions

(Continued from Page 1)

Other jail sentences passed Sunday included three men sent to jail for 25 years with hard labour — Adib Nayif, a stateless man; Hamid Radif, an Iraqi and Jasim Nasr Abdullah, whose nationality was not known.

Five people, including a

What does Israel have to fear from the U.N.?

By Abba Eban
The New York Times

BY accepting the Middle East peace conference proposed by President Bush and Secretary of State James Baker, Israel could register a breakthrough for its central interests. The benefits would include negotiations with Arab states dialogue with mainstream Palestinians, intimate cooperation with the U.S. in a peace process, a new status in the European Community and diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union.

The total result would be an economic upsurge that would help Israel solve the problems created by the providential arrival of immigrants from the Soviet Union and Ethiopia.

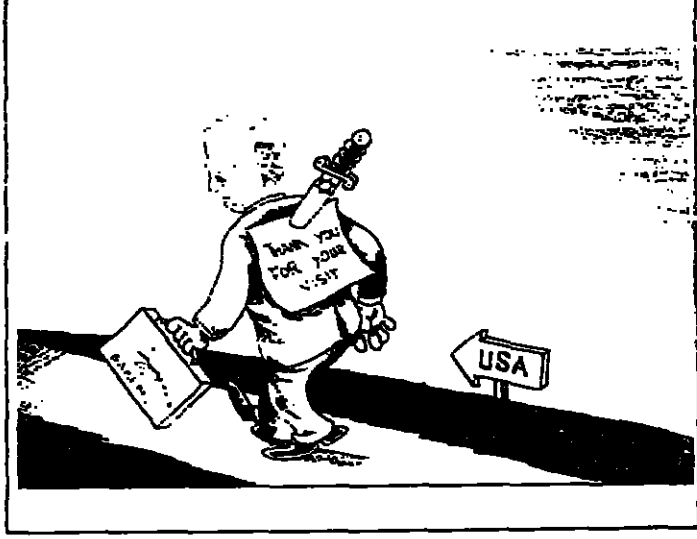
America's proposal envisions the symbolic presence of a U.N. observer at a conference at which the U.S. and Soviet Union would be chairmen. There is nothing new or significant in this idea. The U.N. secretary general presided in the Geneva peace conference of 1973 without claiming any influence on the proceedings.

Mr. Baker has worked hard and successfully to oppose a Syrian request to give the U.N. a coercive role. It would be tragic if vital benefits were wasted because of an exaggerated fear of a U.N. presence.

Contrary to the standard view, the U.N. is not a traditional adversary of Israel. No nation has derived comparable advantage from it. The Security Council is the heart of the system; the only General Assembly resolutions called "decisions" define the structure of the world community through U.N. membership.

The assembly exercised that power in resolution 273 on May 11, 1949, when it admitted Israel to membership. That decision transcends the obscene graffiti of 1975 defaming Zionism as "racism."

The Security Council's role in Israel's history is complex



and, in its overall result, creative. In June 1948, it voted the truce without which the first of Israel's wars could have ended tragically and without victory. In July, the council denounced the Arab's resumption of war and ordered a ceasefire on pain of sanctions. In November, a council resolution inaugurated the four armistice accords that stabilised Israel's territorial structure on the basis of successes in its war of independence.

In 1951, the Security Council defined Egypt's blockade of Israeli shipping in the Suez Canal as illegal. From 1957 to 1967, U.N. forces cooperated with Israel in establishing its right of free navigation in the Straits of Tiran and immunity from attacks from Gaza.

In 1967, the council, even the assembly, rejected five draft resolutions calling for Israeli withdrawal from the newly captured territories without peace. In November 1967, the council adopted resolution 242, legitimising Israel's presence in the territories pending a peace agreement.

In 1973, the council called on Middle East nations to negotiate under U.S.-Soviet auspices. That year, the Geneva peace conference inaugurated the disengagement agreements among Israel, Egypt and Syria, which prevented a resumption of the Yom Kippur war.

Israel recently joined in asking the council to maintain the U.N. forces that contribute to stability in the Golan Heights. It would be bizarre to ask the U.N. to risk its forces in a zone of tension while prohibiting the presence of its official in a conference chamber.

There have been many unbalanced council statements. But these have been rhetorical commentaries on passing events, while the council's pragmatic, unsentimental determinations on security, national identities, international law and negotiation across four decades are among Israel's principal diplomatic and legal defences to this day.

The U.N. should neither be idolised nor demonised. It mirrors today's international system. Its flag rightfully belongs wherever the idea of peace is realistically debated.

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Sports

GERMAN SOCCER

Kaiserslautern caps dream year

BONN (R) — Kaiserslautern, the backwoodsmen of German soccer, clinched their first Bundesliga title for nearly four decades on the final day of the season Saturday.

The club, who were battling against relegation last season, struck four first half goals to set up a 6-2 win over Cologne. The victory gave them their first championship since 1953.

Kaiserslautern finished the season three points ahead of reigning champions Bayern Munich, who could only draw 2-2 at home with relegated Bayer Uerdingen.

The Bavarians had been widely tipped to snatch the title on goal difference if the southwest club slipped up against Cologne, who were still in the running for a UEFA cup place.

But striker Bernhard Winkler, playing his first full league game, scored twice as Kaiserslautern cruised to a 4-1 halftime lead.

They went on to become the only second team to take the title away from Bayern in the past seven seasons.

After failing to clinch the title last Saturday when they lost 3-2 to Borussia Muenchengladbach — their first defeat at home this season, Kaiserslautern had a nervous week preparing for the crunch game.

But, roared on by 40,000 Kaiserslautern fans packed into Cologne's Muehlerborfer stadium, they settled their nerves with a goal in the fourth minute.

Defender Marco Haber fired a low free kick past German World Cup goalkeeper Bodo Illgner.

Eleven minutes later Winkler touched in a neat cross from Uwe Scherr to score his first goal.

Cologne had midfielder Hansi Flick sent off in the 31st minute for his second but managed to pull one back two minutes later with a Frank Ordenewitz penalty.

Kaiserslautern then virtually sealed the issue with two goals inside two minutes just before the interval.

Winkler slotted home his second from close range in the 44th minute and Thomas Booley hit Kaiserslautern's fourth in the dying seconds of the half.

Frank Greiner scored for Cologne one minute into the second half but Haber's second strike in the 78th minute and a goal from midfielder Markus Schupp in the last minute completed Cologne's misery.

The triumph marked a remarkable turnaround in Kaiserslautern's fortunes since trainer Karlheinz Feldkamp took charge in February last year when the club were second from bottom of the table.

In three months, the 57 year old Feldkamp guided the team to their first German cup win and to 12th place in the table.

A year later Feldkamp has clinched his first league title after 21 years as a coach.

"It was important for the whole of Germany that we won and Bayern didn't," said Bogley after the team had been presented with the silver plate trophy.

"We were outsiders. But we deserved to win the title because we played well throughout the season and always came at teams when we played away."

France at 5.70 metres (18-8 1-4). The only other international athlete of note, Katrin Krabbe of Germany, was beaten in the women's 100-metre sprint by France's Marie-Josée Pécic with a time of 11.28 seconds into a strong wind. Krabbe, who won three gold medals for East Germany in last September's European championships, was second in 11.37.

Weissenborn wins men's foil world title

BUDAPEST (R) — Ingo Weissenborn of Germany defeated compatriot Thorsten Weidner 5-1 5-6 5-2 to win the men's foil competition at the World Fencing Championships Friday.

The title was Weissenborn's first in an individual event, his previous best being a seventh place finish at the 1987 World Championships. He won a silver medal in the team competition in 1988 and a bronze in the team event in 1986. "I dreamt about finally winning the top prize," said Weissenborn, who competed for East Germany before reunification. He is the third German fencer to win the world foil title in the last five years. In the last year, Weissenborn, who previously trained in Potsdam, has been working at Thuberschofheim, the fencing centre which has produced many West German champions. The facilities are better and the competition is tougher, and this has helped my preparation greatly," Weissenborn said. Neither defending Olympic champion Stefano Cerioni of Italy nor 1990 world champion Philippe Omnes of France reached the final eight.

Canadian places second in race

TONSBERG, NORWAY (AP) — Ben Johnson, competing for the third time this season, finished second behind Germany's Wolfgang Haupt in a 100-metre race at an International Track and field meet Saturday. Johnson was timed in 10.41 seconds, four hundredths of a second behind Haupt. No other foreigners competed. Third went to Kenneth Kjenli of Norway in 10.52.

Johnson was slightly faster than his first two outdoor meets this season. He was fifth in 10.54 three weeks ago at Granada, Spain, his first outdoor race after completing a two-year suspension for testing positive for steroids at the 1988 summer Olympics.

Johnson had a modest 10.69 in a 100-metre heat on May 30 at Seville, Spain. Johnson was silent and sometimes aggressive during his hour-long workout at the Tonsberg Greveskogen sports park Friday. The Norwegian News Agency NTB reported that Johnson chased a photographer from the local newspaper, Tonsberg Blad, across the grass and threatened to smash his cameras if he took another picture. The 29-year-sprinter did not demand his customary appearance fee for running at the Norwegian meet, but refused to answer any questions from the local newspaper unless it paid him \$2,000, said NTB. "We won't answer a single question unless we get paid," Johnson's trainer Clyde Duncan told NTB after organisers asked him to arrange a brief press conference Friday. Johnson reportedly received 35,000 and 20,000 dollars in appearance fees from the Spanish organisers last month.

Bubka injured in French meet

DIJON, France (AP) — Sergei Bubka, who has broken World Pole Vault records six times this year, withdrew from a French track and field meet Saturday with a minor leg injury. The Soviet was hoping to set a new world outdoor mark for the third time this season, but felt a slight pull in his left calf while warming up for the event. He said it was not serious but decided not to compete as a precaution. He set a record of 6.08 metres (19 feet-11 1/4 inches) last Sunday in Moscow after opening the outdoor season with a vault of 6.07 metres (19 feet-11 inches) in Japan May 6. He set four world indoor marks this winter and has set 26 world pole vault records, indoor and outdoor, since clearing 5.81 metres (19-0) in 1984. The event Saturday was won by Ferenc Salbert of Hungary.

Peanuts

ALL RIGHT, CLASS...JUST TO GET US STARTED HERE IN OUR BIBLE STUDY...

CAN ANYONE TELL ME WHO HIT GOLIATH IN THE HEAD WITH A STONE?

I KNOW! THE GREAT GATSBY!

YOU'LL NEVER BELIEVE IT! I'VE JUST BEEN TALKING TO THE NEW COACH.

HE'S PUTTING A STOP TO US POPPING OVER TO THE PUB FOR A COUPLE OF QUICK ONES AT HALF-TIME?

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AFTER THAT I DEDUCTED \$1,000 FOR DOG BISCUITS AND TEN CENTS FOR FISH FOOD -- I DIVIDED THAT BY THURSDAY AND GOT SIX AND SEVEN EIGHT MY HAT SIZE.

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MUTT, I DID IT! I FIN

Economy

JORDAN TIMES, MONDAY, JUNE 17, 1991 7

Financial Markets
Jordan Times
in co-operation with
Cairo Amman Bank

Weekly F.X. Market Summary (June 10 - June 14, 1991)

THE DOLLAR edged higher in active trading through most of last week's trading sessions, to reach its highest closing levels in New York Thursday. Profit-taking brought the dollar slightly lower Friday, but the U.S. currency ended the week substantially higher than its closing levels at the end of the previous week.

The dollar closed at its lowest levels of the week Monday after intervention from nine central banks, not including the Federal Reserve, pared some of the gains it had achieved at the end of the previous week. It ended higher against the yen, however, on weak performance by Japanese stock and bond markets, rumours of potential problems in the Japanese banking system and persistent expectations of a Bank of Japan discount rate cut. The dollar thus closed at (1.767/82) marks, (141.50/60) yen and at (1.6705/10) dollars to the sterling pound.

Tuesday witnessed a yen rebound on fear of Bank of Japan (BOJ) intervention above (141.50) yen, after the release of a bullish corporate outlook survey by the BOJ. Sterling suffered, on the other hand, as a growing rift between supporters of British Prime Minister John Major and former prime minister Margaret Thatcher within the ruling Conservative Party, fuelled concerns that the Tories might do badly in the next general elections.

The dollar continued its rise against EMS currencies Wednesday, while fear of BOJ intervention continued to limit its upside potential against the yen to (141.50). The dollar's rise came in anticipation of the release of a batch of U.S. economic statistics Thursday and Friday, which dealers expected to shed favourable new insights on the direction of U.S. economic activity.

The dollar rose further Thursday, after the release of retail sales and producer price statistics for May. Retail sales jumped by (1%) and producer prices rose by (0.6%), whereas the market had anticipated rises in the order of (0.6%) and (0.3%), respectively. But a bout of profit-taking took place after the dollar breached resistance at (1.80) marks, as dealers squared positions ahead of the weekend, and for fear of central bank intervention. The dollar thus closed at its highest levels for the week at (1.7993/03) marks, (141.30/40) yen and at (1.6335/45) dollars to the sterling pound.

Profit-taking continued Friday, despite the release of industrial production figures for May, revealing a rise of (0.5%), while capacity utilisation rose to (78.7%) from (78.3%) in April. Consumer prices for May rose by a slight (0.2%), on the other hand, dampening expectations of tighter Federal Reserve monetary policy, which were fuelled by producer price figures the previous day.

Expectations for the dollar continue to be bullish, as the U.S. currency is expected to rise further next week, unless its rise is checked by aggressive central bank intervention.

New York Closing Rates for Major Currencies Against the U.S. Dollar

Currency	7/6/1991 Close	14/6/1991 Close	Percent Change
Sterling Pound*	1.6710	1.6329	- 2.29%
Deutsche Mark	1.7720	1.7950	- 1.28%
Swiss Franc	1.5182	1.5388	- 1.34%
French Franc	6.0020	6.0985	- 1.55%
Japanese Yen	140.47	140.71	- 0.16%

* USD Per STG

Euro-Currency Interest Rates*

Currency	7/6/1991 1-Month (%)	14/6/1991 1-Month (%)	1-Month (%)	1-Year (%)
U.S. Dollar	6.00	6.87	5.87	6.61
Sterling Pound	11.50	10.81	11.31	10.68
Deutsche Mark	8.87	9.00	8.75	9.12
Swiss Franc	8.12	7.81	7.87	7.68
French Franc	9.56	9.43	9.62	9.62
Japanese Yen	7.81	7.37	7.90	7.50

Interbank bid rates for amounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	.686	.688
Sterling Pound	1.1187	1.1243
Deutsche Mark	.3820	.3839
Swiss Franc	.4452	.4476
French Franc	.1123	.1129
Japanese Yen*	.4870	.4894
Dutch Guilder	.3387	.3404
Swedish Krona	.1060	.1065
Italian Lira*	.0512	.0515
Belgian Franc	.01856	.01865

* Per 100

Unless it perseveres with efforts to move to free market economy

Analyst predicts Soviet Union to be net oil importer by '96

SINGAPORE (R) — The Soviet Union will be a net oil importer by 1996 unless it perseveres with efforts to move to a free market economy, Mr. Eugene Khartukov, chief of the world energy analysis and forecasting group in Moscow, has said.

But if it moves slowly towards a market economy with gradual increases in domestic prices of crude and products, and limited involvement of Western oil companies, it will still be exporting more than two million barrels per day (b/d) by the end of the century, he told an oil and money conference in Singapore.

In 1990, the Soviet Union produced 11.5 million b/d, consumed 8.5 million and exported the three million b/d surplus.

Mr. Khartukov said Western analysts of the Soviet energy market underestimate the impact of internal political, economic and social factors on domestic oil supplies and energy demand and persistently attribute the diminishing exports of Soviet oil to depleted wells and corroded pipelines.

"Indeed, the producing oil fields are badly watered and depleted and at least a third of the oil pipelines need replacing," he said.

But who really cares when there are no slightest stimuli to work — let alone work better — and ever worsening working and living conditions tempt Soviet oilmen to go on strike? If successful, the started political and economic reforms ... are sure to tangibly improve the Soviet economy's efficiency in all the business spheres, including the development and utilisation of its enormous energy resources," Mr. Khartukov added.

But if the reforms stop, indigenous oil production will rapidly decline to less than nine million b/d in the year 2000, consumption will increase to 11 million b/d and net oil exports dry up by 1995, he said.

The other extreme would be rapid marketisation of the Soviet economy with steadily rising domestic prices for crude and products aimed at their world parities by 2000.

A free economy and influx of Western investment would lead to fairly quick stabilisation and slow growth of crude and condensate output to almost 12 million b/d by the year 2000, with an exportable surplus rising to nearly six million b/d, he said.

But under the more likely slowly liberalising economic conditions with limited involvement of Western oil companies, by the end of the century Soviet oil production will go down to 10 million b/d, domestic oil consumption — after peaking at 8.7 million in 1996 — will fall to eight million b/d and the exportable surplus will recover from its lowest level of 1.6 million in 1996 to 2.1 million b/d.

Mr. Khartukov said changes in political and economic conditions in the Soviet Union will have a greater effect on the price of oil than oil supply disruptions in the Middle East.

A rapid move to a market economy would result in an oil price of \$22 a barrel by the year 2000, while lack of reform and rapidly falling exports would push prices to \$36.

With a gradual move to a market economy, prices would be \$29 by 2000, he said.

"Ongoing and future oil developments in the Soviet Union deserve no less attention of Western analysts than that traditionally paid to other major oil-exporting regions of the world," he concluded.



Edouard Saouma

Fight off aid-fatigue, FAO urges rich states

ROME (R) — The U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) has urged rich countries to fight off aid-fatigue and help victims of a string of recent disasters.

FAO Director-General Edouard Saouma told 49 donor countries and agencies that Western governments must not leave victims to fate.

"There is a desperate need to come to the assistance of the droves of refugees that have been routed from their lands and villages and whose nightmarish wanderings are continually stalked by hunger, disease and death," he said.

"As if this were not enough, the humanitarian assistance sent for their relief is very often unable to reach its destination because of the insane logic of war," he said.

Mr. Saouma cited civil wars in Ethiopia, Somalia, Sudan, Mozambique, Angola and Liberia as well as the Gulf war as particular concerns of the FAO.

He said survivors of an April cyclone that hit Bangladesh, killing nearly 140,000 people, would find it difficult to feed themselves because of damage to crops, livestock and fisheries.

Oman International Bank to raise capital to \$31m

MANAMA, Bahrain (R) — The Muscat-based Oman International Bank (OIB) has said it planned to issue shares worth two million riyals (\$5.2 million) to raise its paid-in capital to 12 million riyals (\$31.2 million).

The head of OIB investment banking unit Mr. Nikhil Kapadia, said 1.2 million shares would be offered to existing shareholders on a rights issue basis and 800,000 shares would be offered to the Omani public.

Mr. Kapadia told Reuters the bank would also issue floating rate notes (FRNS) on private

placement basis worth two million riyals (\$5.2 million).

He said the seven year notes would carry interest rate at 25 basis points above Oman's central bank ceiling rate on fixed deposit rates of 9.5 per cent.

FRNS will be listed on the Muscat stock market and will be offered to institutional and private investors on a private placement basis.

Mr. Kapadia said OIB posted a 1.7 million riyals (\$4.43 million) net profit in 1990, slightly down on the previous year of 1.86 million riyals (\$4.04 million).

British year-on-year inflation falls below 6%

LONDON (R) — British year-on-year inflation slipped below six per cent for the first time since 1988 in May, prompting new calls for the government to ease a credit squeeze which has plunged the economy deep into recession.

But much as Prime Minister John Major's embattled Conservative cabinet might want to make a new cut in interest rates, a weak pound sterling apparently compelled it to delay.

Official figures showed May year-on-year inflation measured by the retail price index was 5.8 per cent, compared with 6.4 per cent in April and a peak last September and October of 10.9 per cent.

The news was one bright spot in a week of gloom for the government, which Thursday had to announce that unemployment rose almost to 2.25 million or eight per cent in May.

Sir Alan Walters, former prime minister Margaret Thatcher's economic adviser, said a "deep and lasting recession" would probably cost Mr. Major the next general election.

This must be called within 18 months, meaning that the government has a race against time to turn the economy round.

The treasury noted Thursday that inflation has fallen steadily for seven months and was below

six per cent for the first time since August 1988. Britain was "clearly on track" to a target of inflation at four per cent by the end of the year.

The decline in inflation has already allowed bank base interest rates to be reduced from 15 to 11.5 per cent.

But financial analysts said any further interest rate cuts were constrained by the need to defend the pound, which is under pressure in the markets.

The latest inflation figure is still almost double Germany's three per cent, while the Conservatives' boom-bust handling of the economy is a prime reason why they trail the opposition Labour Party by up to 10 per cent in public opinion polls.

More stubborn "underlying inflation" in May was at 6.6 per cent, down from 6.8, Thursday's figures from the Central Statistical Office showed.

Iran brings in Canadians to help boost oil capacity

ISFAHAN, Iran (R) — Canadian drillers will help provide the extra power Iran needs for a planned increase in oil production capacity in the next two years, a National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) board member has said.

Drilling and exploration have been neglected for more than a decade, as other sectors took priority during the eight-year war with Iraq and foreign expertise was lost after the 1979 Islamic revolution.

"Up to now the drilling was done totally by Iranian personnel," NIOC director of exploration and production, Mr. Ali Moshaghian, said in an interview.

Mr. Moshaghian said Canadian Triton International have a one-year contract to provide 12 drilling rigs and crews.

The rigs are due to come into service in two months. The contract is initially for one year, with an option to extend, and is worth well over \$200 million, he said.

Iran has been slowly opening to the outside world since the 1989 death of its spiritual leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini.

Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati told an oil conference here last month the end of the cold war left a world in which "economic considerations over-

shadow political priorities."

Iran's production capacity, once more than six million barrels per day (b/d), fell to lows of close to two million during the Iran-Iraq war.

Oil Minister Gholamreza Azghdeh recently announced a programme to raise it to five million b/d by March 1993.

Mr. Moshaghian said current production capacity was close to 3.5 million b/d, of which onshore output was 3.2 million and offshore production 270,000 to 280,000 b/d.

He said the Pars and Karanj fields, currently resting due to reduced reservoir pressure, will come back on stream soon with the help of a gas injection project to provide an extra 200,000 b/d apiece.

"Getting up to four million (b/d capacity) onshore is planned and budgeted for," he said. "The planned programme for the offshore is 500,000 to 600,000 b/d from existing fields."

Adding extra offshore capacity is less of a problem as it mainly means rebuilding surface facilities damaged in the Iran-Iraq war.

NIOC currently has 28 rigs operating, of which four are working on gas projects and four on exploration.

Seismic studies by foreign teams have encouraged NIOC to step up its exploration programme in the Gulf.

Onshore, the programme requires 150 new wells to be drilled within two years.

Western engineers familiar with the fields from pre-revolution days said their difficult geological configuration could make this hard to achieve.

"Of course the wells are more difficult compared with the U.S. and Europe. They are comparatively deep, you have to drill through several zones of high and low pressure and detecting the cap rock is very important," Mr. Moshaghian said.

"We know how to drill and know the parameters. It is more difficult but we can handle it," he stressed.

The extra production is likely to come from existing fields for the next couple of years, but Mr. Moshaghian anticipated the number of rigs dedicated to exploration will rise from four to 12 within five years.

"As the man responsible for exploration in the country I think we have a very good opportunity to discover new oil and especially gas fields," Mr. Moshaghian said.

Nigerian parties pledge reforms

LAGOS (R) — Nigeria's two civilian political parties have said they would proceed with the military government's free market economic reforms after a planned handover of power in October next year.

The left-of-centre Social Democratic Party (SDP) and the Conservative National Republican Convention (NRC) told a meeting of businessmen that they supported reforms introduced in 1986 to help revive a battered economy.

The five-year-old military government, which sponsored the two parties, is carrying out a phased programme to hand over power to an elected civilian government.

It introduced a structural adjustment programme after lower oil world prices, mismanagement and corruption sent the economy from boom to near bust.

NRC Chairman Tom Ikimi told the annual meeting of the Nigerian Chambers of Commerce, Industry, Mines and Agriculture (NACCIMA) the reforms had expanded Nigeria's agricultural base, increased access to scarce foreign exchange for industries and provided a measure of economic stability.

SDP Chairman Baba Gana Kingibe said his party would facilitate growth, implement the social aspects of the adjustment programme and temper government participation in sub-Saharan Africa's biggest economy.

U.S. recession drives up business failures

NEW YORK (Agencies) — U.S. business failures rose 59 per cent in April compared to a year ago, evidence that the recession is continuing, Dun and Bradstreet Corp. has reported.

The business information company's monthly analysis of business bankruptcies tallied 7,459 business failures in April 1991, compared with 4,709 in April 1990. All but six states, and every major industry group, reported increases.

"Everyone's getting hit pretty hard in this particular downturn," said Mr. Reid Gearhart, a Dun and Bradstreet analyst.

Failures totalled 28,340 for the first four months of 1991, a 55 per cent increase from the 18,286 recorded in the same, non-recessionary, period in 1990. The finance, insurance and real estate sector posted the sharpest percentage increase, up 70 per cent, the company said.

"It's confirmation that the recession has continued through April," Dun and Bradstreet economist Doug Handley said. "The recession is continuing, but it's not getting deeper. We're forecasting the recession to end soon with slow growth to follow."

"The current trend in business failures is similar to the pattern established in the previous recession year of 1982, when bankruptcies increased 48 per cent," said Mr. Joseph Duncan, Dun and Bradstreet's chief economist.

Bankruptcies in the services industry increased nearly 65 per cent in April from the previous year, with 60 per cent of the increase attributed to failures in

the Pacific and middle Atlantic regions, Mr. Duncan said.

Meanwhile the Commerce Department has said that spending by U.S. businesses to expand production this year is expected to rise by just 3.0 per cent after inflation, the slowest pace in five years.

A survey of spending plans conducted in April and May showed companies would boost spending in 1991 by significantly less than the increases of 4.5 per cent after inflation in 1990 and 10.4 per cent in 1988.

The spending would be the poorest for plant and equipment spending since 1986, when spending dropped 4.1 per cent.

Spending slowed sharply in the second half of 1990 as the U.S. economy slipped into recession.

There have been recent signs that the economy will resume growing in the second half of this year, but business investment may trail any overall recovery.

The report on investment plans projects spending at an annual rate of \$527.9 billion in the first three months of 1991, but rising in each successive quarter to a rate of \$549.1 billion by the fourth quarter.

"We're really not expecting a very robust recovery from May source and this just backs that view," said Mr. Kathryn Kopp, an economist with the forecasting firm Joel Popkin Co.

"The silver lining in this report is that there are no signs of weakness," said Mr. Sam Kahan, senior economist with Fuji Securities Inc. in Chicago.

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Cinema Tel: 625155

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in
THE ESCAPE
(Arabic)

Show: 30:30, 6:30, 8:30 p.m.

Eruption could derail talks on U.S. bases U.S. orders pullout as terrified Filipinos flee killer volcano

SAN FERNANDO, Philippines (R) — Tens of thousands of panic-stricken Filipinos crowded into buses and trucks or fled on foot Sunday from an erupting volcano which killed at least 60 people in a weekend of terror.

Packed buses, trucks and jeeps jammed routes out of a 40 kilometre danger zone around Mount Pinatubo, which bombarded nearby towns with peddles, red hot lava and ash and forced the closure of Clark Air Base, the largest U.S. air base in Asia.

The United States began evacuating 20,000 dependants of American servicemen from Subic Bay Naval Base on the Philippine northwest coast as scientists warned that further explosions threatened up to a million people.

The first 700 Americans boarded a flotilla of three ships at Subic for a 12 hour voyage to the central Philippine island of Cebu, which has an international airport.

From Cebu, they will fly home in chartered DC-10 airliners, the U.S. embassy in Manila said. Transport planes were standing by to ferry the other Americans home.

At least 60 people were reported killed, including one American in Subic. Most died when buildings collapsed, groaning under the weight of continuous ashfalls and rocked by a series of earthquakes sparked by the volcano.

Others were killed when villages were swamped by mudslides and floods triggered by a tropical storm.

The Philippine News Agency quoted unconfirmed reports as saying that 100 people were killed in San Marcelino in the north-western province of Zambales when the roof collapsed on a crowded public market Saturday.

Witnesses said dozens might have died in San Marcelino, but officials were unable to give an accurate death toll.

"I heard a rumbling sound and suddenly the roof fell on us. We started to run, but many were caught by the falling roof," said Julieta Pomelo, a stallholder in the market who escaped unhurt.

The volcano cut a swathe of destruction across the northern Philippines. Villages were buried in mud; towns were paralysed by knee-high ashfalls and buildings collapsed in earth tremors which followed a relentless volley of eruptions.

Buildings swayed as a strong tremor shook the capital, Manila, Sunday but there was no apparent damage.

"That's a strong one," said defence secretary Fidel Ramos who was being interviewed at the time on Manila Radio.

All flights into Manila Airport remained suspended because thin clouds of ash from Mount Pinatubo, 90 kilometres to the north, limited visibility on its runways.

As thousands more families abandoned their homes, scientists began to revise their overnight predictions that the boiling volcano, dormant for more than 600 years, could engulf major towns in a devastating "big bang."

Fresh examination showed that the summit of the volcano had collapsed and it was likely that further eruptions would not be as big as over the past two days, they said.

"It's possible we've seen the worst last night. Tentatively the worst is over," said Belfin Garcia, chief seismologist with the Philippine Institute of Volcanology. "We may be able to reduce the size of the danger zone."

President Corason Aquino appealed to the country to help hundreds of thousands of victims of Pinatubo by donating food and clothing.

Two fresh eruptions rocked the volcano Sunday.

"It looked like the end of the world," said a U.S. spokesman at Subic Bay, about 90 kilometres from the volcano and 80 kilometres northwest of Manila.

The huge weight of falling ash and rock forced many buildings to collapse. Dams burst and bridges were washed away.

"When we heard on the radio that our town was in a danger zone, we just grabbed what we could and ran out of the house," said Evelyn Galang, a mother of three small children who fled to San Fernando.

"We left in panic. I didn't even



A huge cloud of ash billows from Mount Pinatubo

remember to bring food for the kids. My problem now is how to feed them."

Many evacuees had nowhere to go, but crowded into churches and schools. Tens of thousands headed for Manila.

Thousands of people streamed out of Angeles, a town of 280,000 people about 20 kilometres from the volcano, some riding on top of buses, others in big open trucks.

"We don't know where we are going. We just want to get out of here. We just want to survive this disaster," said 44-year-old basket weaver Alihandro Delcarino, whose house near the evacuated Clark Air Base was washed away.

Meanwhile, analysts said that the eruption of Pinatubo could force a major revision of a proposed treaty between the United States and the Philippines on American military bases in the country.

The volcano erupted when negotiators from the two countries had almost completed talks on the future of Clark Subic Bay, the two largest U.S. bases in Asia.

As Pinatubo started raining ash down on Clark, Philippine foreign secretary said Friday he hoped a new bases agreement might be signed this week.

Now, all calculations have been changed by the series of explosions unleashed by the volcano which bombarded Clark and Subic with a hail of rock and ash.

"The eruption has made the Americans far more inclined to give up Clark Air Base and possibly even Subic," said Manila columnist Ariel Bocodo.

The lease on the bases expires in September. Clark and Subic represent almost a century of American military presence in Asia and play an important role in guarding trade routes across the Indian and Pacific oceans.

But, while the United States insisted in negotiations with the Philippines that it wanted both bases for another 10 years, it was already running down Clark as part of defence cutbacks following the end of the cold war.

Two squadrons of F4 fighter bombers were withdrawn and not replaced. The last three aircraft flew out this month.

Pinatubo's eruption may force Washington to rethink the need for Clark as a lynchpin for U.S. strategy in the region, defence analysts said. Alternate landing sites for U.S. fighter jets and transport planes could be found at bases in Japan, Guam and the U.S. mainland.

Congress wins 15 seats of first 18 declared

NEW DELHI, India (AP) — Early election returns Sunday showed the Congress Party of assassinated former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in the lead, but they did not include many areas where its chief competitors were expected to win.

Congress Party candidates won 15 of the first 18 seats declared after the most violent election in India's history, according to United News of India.

The Hindu right-wing Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) won two, and the Communist Party-Marxist took one seat.

Incomplete returns showed Congress Party candidates outpolling the BJP more than 2-to-1. The reports came from nearly three-fourths of the 511 parliamentary districts voting, but they excluded the strongest turf of the BJP and the third major party, former Prime Minister V.P. Singh's Janata Dal.

BJP leaders said they were encouraged by their showing outside the so-called "Hindu heartland" of northern India.

"We are emerging as an all-India force. This has become clear," said BJP General Secretary Govindacharya, who uses

only one name. No party appeared set to win the 256 seats needed for a majority, and India appeared headed for a coalition government.

Reports from 364 constituencies showed Congress candidates leading in 183 races and its small-party allies leading in 11 more, state-run television said. The BJP was ahead in 76 districts, while the Janata Dal led in 31. A variety of smaller parties and independents dominated the rest.

The voting started May 20, but Gandhi was assassinated the next day. The rest of the voting was postponed for three weeks, concluding Saturday.

About 290 people died in election violence during the campaign and voting. And Saturday night, Sikh extremists stopped two trains and shot to death 126 people in Punjab state, a senior police officer said.

It was the worst attack in the 8-year insurrection by Sikhs who want to secede from Hindu-dominated India and who had vowed to disrupt the elections. Television said preliminary counts indicated the voter turnout was only 53 per cent, the

lowest in any of the 10 parliamentary elections since India became independent from Britain in 1947.

Gandhi's death left a power vacuum in the Congress Party, which since India won its independence from Britain in 1947.

When elections resumed last week, the Congress Party had gathered around a compromise candidate as its leader, former Foreign Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao. But a half-dozen powerful regional politicians within the party continued to jockey for the chance to become prime minister or at least play kingmaker.

An exit poll projected the Congress Party would get between 195 and 215 seats.

The Bharatiya Janata, or Indian people's party, headed by Lal Krishna Advani was expected to win between 140 and 160. The Janata Dal and its partners in the left front alliance were pegged at between 105 and 125 seats.

The poll, which covered about 94,500 voters in 71 constituencies, was conducted by the Marketing and Research Group. No margin of error was given.

2 students die in Dhaka gunbattle

DHAKA (R) — Two students were killed and nearly 25 injured in a gunbattle between supporters of the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) and the opposition Awami League in a Dhaka college, police said Sunday.

They said clashes erupted at Jagannath College Saturday night following disputes over admission of new students.

"Sporadic battle between the two armed groups continued until this morning and one student from either group was killed. About 25 students have been injured," one police officer said.

Authorities said Sunday they had decided to close the college indefinitely as scattered gunfire was still heard on the campus and they feared more violence.

In southern Bangladesh, an Awami League supporter and a passer by were killed when rival student groups battled for four hours near Chittagong University Saturday.

The Awami League blamed Chhatra Shibir, student wing of the fundamentalist Jamaat-e-Islami Party, police said.

Clashes between the two groups have often disrupted the 10,000 student Chittagong University in recent years.

Yeltsin trip to Washington marks new era for populist leader

By Jonathan Lyons
Reuters

MOSCOW — Newly-elected Russian President Boris Yeltsin's trip to the United States, beginning Tuesday, marks a radical jump from his familiar world of rough-and-tumble domestic politics into the realm of world affairs.

But the plain spoken former Moscow Communist Party leader, his reputation abroad enhanced by last week's elections victory, has a chance to calm Western fears that his radical programme is contributing to the country's disintegration.

The trip also offers him an additional boost among Russians, for whom a handshake with a U.S. president will be the final confirmation their man has arrived.

Western analysts in Moscow said Yeltsin, who is set to meet President George Bush June 20, will outline his package of radical economic and political reform and explain his relationship with Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev.

Yeltsin, whose visit as a guest of U.S. congressional leaders will last until June 22, is expected to suggest creating direct ties between the United States and his

huge republic, which spans 11 time zones and has a population of 148 million.

"The purpose of the visit is to inform the United States and the world community that Russia, where people made their choice in favour of democracy, is ready to achieve stability... through broadening radical and economic reforms," Yeltsin's foreign minister, Andrei Kozyrev, said at a news conference.

Since the Russian election, Gorbachev and Yeltsin have closed ranks, each going out of his way in public comments to smooth the over past difference and to build on a recent truce between the Kremlin and nine of the 15 republics.

"These elections have produced a new balance. There is an understanding between us based on a working relationship," Yeltsin told French television at the weekend.

Gorbachev told Soviet television, he had congratulated Yeltsin on his election to head the union's most powerful republic and the two men had agreed to step up cooperation.

"The elections were to a certain extent a signal that people are well disposed to... the fact that we have recently made real steps towards radicalisation of

reform," Gorbachev said. "This new found accord, should it prove more durable than previous agreements, could go a long way towards convincing a reluctant West that greater political and economic aid to the Soviet Union is now in order."

"He (Yeltsin) has made it very clear that he doesn't see his job is to undercut Gorbachev's authority in any way," said a senior Western diplomat. "He doesn't try to get into things like arms control negotiations, foreign and political issues."

But the Russian foreign minister could not resist a subtle dig at Gorbachev, noting Yeltsin would not "beg for credits" during planned meetings with U.S. business and finance leaders.

Despite repeated denials by Gorbachev and senior aides, many Soviet citizens see the Kremlin leader's visit to the G-7 summit of leading industrial nations in London next month as little more than a desperate plea for a bail-out.

Aides hope a successful U.S. visit will polish Yeltsin's image and help him in negotiations with Gorbachev.

Yeltsin's past record on foreign trips is not that good. A private visit to France last

April was marred by public claims from the Russian side of an official meeting with President Francois Mitterrand. A U.S. lecture tour in 1989 was dogged by media allegations Yeltsin had drunk and spent his way through a gruelling schedule.

But diplomats are starting to doubt whether he is a dexterous enough politician to capitalise on that strength and win Angola's first multi-party elections against UNITA leader Jonas Savimbi or a future leader of a "third force."

Dos Santos's personal popularity has soared since he signed a peace accord last month with U.S.-backed UNITA rebels.

One of the consequences of the changes Dos Santos set in motion will be Angola's first multi-party elections, scheduled for late 1992. "Peace is seen as his achievement. He's got all the trump cards in his hand," said one diplomat of the reserved and impassive president, a Soviet trained technocrat.

"But he's no kind of politician and he's not going to play them correctly." The diplomat added: "On the other hand, Savimbi can't say he's a man of peace, but he can talk — and presentation is everything in politics. I can't see Savimbi walking away from all this without power."

Savimbi, with years of Bush war experience and a gift for gratory, has said he will return to Luanda next month to start campaigning.

The people of Luanda, many of whom are of mixed race, have traditionally feared the guerrilla leader, who has threatened to throw them out of positions of power and put black Angolans in their place.

But curiosity about the guerrilla leader is growing. "Of course I like Dos Santos best," said Sandro, a clerk in a government office. "But I'm

Sicilians vote in shadow of Mafia

By Stephen Addison
Reuters

ROME — Italians in the Mafia heartland of Sicily voted Sunday in a local election which may have far reaching national effects.

The vote will be another snapshot of the country's mood after last week's national referendum delivered a resounding call for electoral reform.

It may even lead to the eventual collapse of Italy's 50th government since World War II, some political analysts believe.

"Rome is looking to (the Sicilian capital) Palermo to decide what to do," said the Il Giornale newspaper Sunday, echoing a common view. "The government's fate depends in part on what comes out of the ballot boxes in Sicily."

The two month old ruling coalition of Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti is already split over electoral reform and economic austerity measures.

In Sicily, some 10 per cent of Italy's 47 million voters were choosing a regional assembly and 12 town councils. First estimates of the results are expected Monday.

Attention is focused on the electoral debut of Italy's newest party, the Rete, or Network, running on an anti-Mafia platform and led by former Palermo Mayor Leoluca Orlando.

Orlando had often defied his old party, the dominant Christian Democrats (DC), in his single-minded battle against the Mafia and was sacked last year. He founded the Rete four months ago on a platform of honesty and transparency.

"These elections are going to be like another referendum," he said last week. "They will be a choice between the old way of

doing politics and a fresh start."

Many of his candidates are relatives and friends of Mafia victims, adding to Orlando's already widespread local appeal.

According to Enzo Dianco, former mayor of Catania, the Mafia controls some 10 per cent of the vote in Sicily and all parties have agreed not to present candidates for the northern town of Torricola in protest at mob manipulation.

The election will allow voters to choose three or four candidates under a system open to abuse and now widely discredited after last Sunday's referendum which reduced the choice to one for national elections.

Analysts expect Orlando to take votes from the DC in one of their southern strongholds and from their main partners in the uneasy national coalition, the Socialists.

"If he gets eight or nine per cent it will be a slap in the face for Andreotti," said one diplomat. The Socialists want a good result to make up for last week's referendum snub, analysts say.

Party leader Bettino Craxi had appealed for a voter boycott but a high 62 per cent turned out and a strong majority favoured changing election rules.

If the Socialists do well in Sicily they may decide the time is right to withdraw from the national coalition and provoke a general election, analysts say.

Also under the microscope will be the Democratic Party of the Left (PDS), Italy's huge former Communist Party which has been in disarray since its name change earlier this year.

In the previous Sicilian regional election in 1986, the DC polled 80.0 per cent. The Communists 19.4 per cent and the Socialists 15 per cent.

'Blackmail' charge as Walesa renews poll threat to parliament

WARSAW (R) — Opponents of President Lech Walesa have raised a storm of protest over his threats to break up parliament and set his own rules for Poland's first free legislative elections since World War II.

The threats plunged Walesa still deeper into conflict with a parliament dominated by former communists as the battle over a new electoral law raged into a second week.

Wlodzimierz Cimoszewicz, leader of the democratic left group of ex-communists, accused Walesa Saturday of exerting "pressure bordering on blackmail," over the bill.

Walesa's former Solidarity comrade Bronislaw Geremek told national television: "This

sabre rattling and whip-cracking is nothing more than an empty threat."

Open warfare between Walesa and parliament erupted last week when he vetoed its draft law for October elections, calling it messy and over complex.

The Sejm (lower house) prepared a new law in just two days and rushed it through Saturday. Walesa's aides said it was still not good enough because it would lead to fragmented parliament.

They repeated his earlier threat to dissolve the assembly if it refused to cooperate and said for the first time Walesa was ready to draft the election rules on his own.

"If sham changes are introduced to the bill, the president

says he will present his own draft, on the basis of which he will conduct the elections, his spokesman, Andrzej Drzymski said.

The main bone of contention is a clause in the new bill stating that voters must cast their ballot for individual candidates rather than party lists — the opposite of what Walesa wants.

He argues that the bill will favour political personalities over parties and create a splintered parliament unable to produce a stable government majority.

Some analysts say the electoral quarrel is merely a pretext and Walesa is bent on getting rid of parliament at any price.

Sixty five per cent of Sejm seats are held by ex-communists and their allies

COLUMN

Man videotaped evidence of own beating

SAN JOSE, California (AP) — A man who said some neighbours had been harassing him for years because he is homosexual captured his own beating on videotape with a camera set up in the front window of his home.

"This is the first case I've ever dealt with where the victim was able to capture the incident on tape," police spokesman Veronica Damon said after the tape was shown Friday night on area television stations. Police said they were unaware of the tape taken by William Kiley, 34, until Friday night, although he had called them last Tuesday night to report being attacked by a 17-year-old neighbour.

The tape, first shown by KPIX-TV in San Francisco, shows Kiley being beaten on the front lawn of a house, a rental property he owns across the street from his own home. Police said that as of Saturday morning, no arrests had been made. Mayor Susan Hammer said after seeing the tape that she was "horrified and angry and sickened."

Kiley said his injuries included a broken nose, two black eyes and cuts and bruises on his head and chest. He said he had done nothing to provoke the attack. Kiley said he set up the camera on the advice of a lawyer and because of his concern over harassment from members of a family living next door to his rental property.

The videotape shows a youth yelling at Kiley, who is watering the lawn with a hose, and later punching him in the face. Kiley sprays the young man in the face when the youth next approaches him, and the teen-ager then takes off his shirt and goes after Kiley again with his fists.

Stalin's double dies aged 93

MOSCOW (AP) — A man who looked so much like Josef Stalin that he was hired to sit in for the Soviet dictator at meetings and banquets has died in the southern city of Krasnodar at the age of 93, Rabochaya Tribuna newspaper said yesterday. Even though he was 20 years younger than Stalin, the man identified only as Rashid so closely resembled the dictator that when he joined the army he was dismissed almost immediately, the newspaper said.

After returning home, a KGB official appeared in Rashid's small Central Asian village in the northern Caucasus and whisked him away. Rashid finally made it back more than two years later, looking more like Stalin than ever. Rashid had spent the time studying with Alexei Dikiy, an actor who played the role of Stalin in films. Under Dikiy's tutelage, Rashid learned to become the best Stalin he could.

Professor charged with kidnapping woman holding her in closet

SUNNYVALE, Texas (AP) — A college professor was in jail Sunday, accused of kidnapping a woman and holding her in a closet for two weeks for his sexual pleasure. The 22-year-old Dallas woman escaped when she was taken to a grocery store June 1, police said. Bill Robert Cathey, 49, who taught English at the University of North Texas in Denton, about 35 miles (45 kilometres) north of Dallas, was arrested Friday and charged with aggravated kidnapping. The charge carries a 10- to 99-year prison sentence. The woman reported she had been abducted in Dallas in mid-May and driven, blindfolded and gagged to the man's house, where he put her in the closet, underdressed and handcuffed her, police said. Cathey has admitted to the kidnapping, police Sgt. Gary Westphal said. He was jailed on \$50,000 "bail." Cathey allegedly fondled the woman, videotaped her, and sometimes forced the woman to kneel and chant "I will obey."

said police investigator Barry Woodrow. Cathey allowed the woman to leave the closet to shower and sleep and occasionally allowed her to jog and shop with him, police said. He took her to the grocery store, a pizza restaurant and a home supply store, police said. Each time she was allowed outside, Cathey blindfolded her when she jogged, he would guide her, police said. When they went to a store or a restaurant, Cathey explained the blindfold by saying that she had a medical problem Westphal said.

It said it was ready to talk, but set Tuesday as a deadline.